



Daily Report

Latin America

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OAS Concludes Policy Programming Meeting
FL0505032589 Bridgetown CANA in English
2350 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 4, CANA—The Organisation of American States (OAS) on Thursday [4 May] concluded in Jamaica the Fifth Policy Programming and Coordination Meeting for the Caribbean and Suriname.

Specialists of the OAS General Secretariat and government representatives from Caribbean nations and Suriname discussed during the last four days the needs in technical assistance submitted by these countries and the possibilities of the OAS to comply with those needs. "We will be taking back to headquarters a clear statement of the technical cooperation that the member states of the Caribbean and Suriname would like to receive from the

OAS," Val T. McComie, the assistant secretary general of the OAS, said. "We will continue dialogue with you, the representatives of the countries, and the other agencies to ensure that we use the resources entrusted to this organization in the best interest of the people we serve," McComie said.

He pointed out that the OAS "is dedicated to assisting governments to promote development in the way that the governments themselves consider most appropriate." "There are definite indications that the meeting has succeeded in achieving its several objectives," McComie told delegates, and in a message for Jamaica, he said "one cannot help but be impressed by the fortitude and resilience that this country has shown against the devastating blow it suffered from Hurricane Gilbert."

Warning on Exclusion of Panama From Group of 8
PA1005001089 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2253 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Caracas, 9 May (EFE)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris said today that if there is an election fraud in Panama, that country would be "definitively excluded" from the Group of Eight.

Panama—originally a member of the Group of Eight, which includes Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Paraguay, and Venezuela—was temporarily suspended from the group last year as a result of the ongoing political crisis there.

Tejera noted that "if this situation in Panama continues, as it seems to be now, and fraud is perpetrated, which we hope can be avoided," that country would be dropped from the Group of Eight.

The foreign relations minister reported that it is probable that the Group of Eight will soon hold a 1-day meeting in Lima at the foreign ministers level to evaluate the situation in Panama.

He added that, as Venezuelan foreign minister, he has hopes that "the Panamanian Government will be able to think this over and understand that it is seriously endangering its people by denying the results of an election the opposition reportedly won."

The Venezuelan Government is staying in constant contact with its ambassador to Panama, Faustino Pulgar, who is "objectively" reporting Panamanian Government and opposition statements as well as other developments in Panama.

Tejera added that should there be a fraud in Panama, "Venezuela would not recognize a fraudulent government."

Sanguinetti Dedicates 7th Planning Conference
PY0905170289 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0627 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Montevideo, 8 May (EFE)—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today dedicated the Seventh Conference of Latin American Planning Ministers and representatives, and urged all participants to "overcome the negative feeling" regarding the integration of Latin American countries.

Representatives of 24 Latin American and Caribbean countries are attending this conference that will end on Wednesday [10 May]. Three directors of the Spanish Economy and Finance Ministry will also attend the conference as special guests.

Sanguinetti stated that "we must be in touch with reality," and this reality "must be faced without disregarding that passion and emotion which we Latin Americans usually express in doing things because, after all, it is imbued in our culture."

The conference dedicated by Sanguinetti is being organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Social and Economic Planning (ILPES). This institute was created to assume the tasks and to expand the activities which until 1961 were carried out by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA).

The Uruguayan president also stressed the "breach" existing between America and Europe and referred to the protectionist barriers posed by the industrialized nations.

Sanguinetti stressed the importance of the economic unity of countries of each zone, giving the example of the EEC that acts as a transnational country, but said that the individual countries must not lose their identities.

The main subject of discussion during the conference will be the development and inclusion of America in the future international economy.

The results of the conference will be channeled toward a technical exchange among the planning ministries of countries of the zone until 1992.

Parallel to that conference, the Regional Planning Council will meet tomorrow, Tuesday. This council is made up of the ministries and national planning organizations of the participating governments.

The Seventh Conference of Latin American Planning Ministers dedicated today, has four plenary sessions planned, in addition to the council meeting to discuss the form of participation of the national delegations.

Present at the meeting are planning ministers and officials from Antigua and Barbuda, Netherlands Antilles, Belize, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, and Uruguay.

The following are also participating as guests: Jose Alberto Zaragoza Rameau, director general of planning of the Spanish Economy and Finance Ministry; Elena Salgado Mendez, director of public costs, personnel, and pensions; and Julio Gomez Rodriguez, chief of the technical cabinet of the Secretariat General for Planning and Budget.

Cuba

Commentary on U.S. Campaign Against Panama
FL0905160089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1155 GMT 9 May 89

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] The latest reports from Panama indicate that the government and the opposition are both claiming they won Sunday's presidential election. The problem is that the results given by the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, are based on what happened at the polls while the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADOC, bases its statistics on its pre-election expectations.

On top of this, a powerful U.S. campaign is underway to not recognize the election results, to incite violence in Panama, and to create conditions for a U.S. military intervention in the isthmus citing as its reason the defense of U.S. interests, as if the United States was another state of the Yankee union. There are some U.S. congressmen, such as Senators Bob Graham and Connie Mack, who are openly calling for military intervention in Panama.

The U.S. establishment [preceding word in English] cannot accept the fact that more than 18 months of financial and economic blockade and pressure of all sorts—which has caused Panama a setback of more than 19 percent in its domestic national product and a cut-back of 35 percent in its imports—has not produced the collapse of the government and that despite this, the people of Panama have supported their authorities through these elections.

The United States does not like General Noriega. That is exclusively the problem of the United States. It is also possible that the Panamanian people do not like Bush. However, just as the Panamanian people would not have the right to try and overthrow the current U.S. Administration simply because they do not like its president, the United States, just because it is a superpower, also cannot try and crush the will of the Panamanian people.

In Panama, principles are in play that have to do with security and the right to the people's self-determination, fundamental elements for coexistence so that international relations can be based on law and not on anyone's whim, no matter how powerful he is.

Further on U.S. Plans
FL0905163189 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 1404 GMT 9 May 89

[Station Commentary by Iliana Gonzalez]

[Text] Today, U.S. President George Bush plans to meet with the congressional delegation that was illegally sent to Panama to observe the general elections held in that

country. According to White House sources, after the meeting the U.S. Government will decide the immediate steps to be taken regarding events in that Central American country.

Some conservative legislators have asked Bush to use military force in Panama to stop a nationalistic and patriotic party from assuming power. Other representatives are asking for the (?voiding) of the Torrijos-Carter agreements, signed in 1937 [as heard], which would give exclusive administration of the canal to the Panamanians in the year 2000.

Despite the disinformation campaign that has been promoted by the United States, as a result of the general elections held in Panama on Sunday [7 May], to create chaos and uncertainty in that country, the victory of the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, over the Opposition Democratic Alliance has exacerbated Washington even more.

Its [Washington's] insolence at not recognizing the clean election process and inciting psychological warfare against Panama surpasses all limits. With the false clothing of being the defender of democratic processes, the United States is set on destroying the patriotic and anticolonial achievements of the Panamanian people.

Keeping the canal at all costs is its objective. However, the Panamanians know that at a given moment, its installations are vulnerable.

Commander in Chief Visits Local Provinces

Ends Ciego de Avila Tour
FL1005023389 Havana Television Service in Spanish
0000 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, ended today his visit to important projects related mainly to the development of water resource management and tourism in Ciego de Avila Province.

Today began with a meeting between the leader of the Revolution and students and teachers of the William Soler semiboarding school located on the Isla de Turiguano, north of Moron Municipality, and senior citizen Manuel Fajardo Perez, who showed with emotion his admiration for Fidel.

[Begin recording] [Fajardo Perez] This is an honor. [passage indistinct]
[Castro, surrounded by children and an old man] Very well.
[Fajardo Perez] [Passage indistinct]
[Castro] Where did he study?
[Unidentified speaker] Yes. The entire primary school until sixth grade.
[Castro] How many more do you have?

[Speaker] Eight.

[Castro] Very well. Well, let's move along because we have a long trip today. [children chant: Fidel, Fidel!]
[end recording]

Later, Fidel accompanied by Alfredo Hondal Gonzalez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in the province, and other leaders, went to the Liberacion de Florencia waterworks complex, a project under construction between the mountains of Chamba and Florencia Municipalities and will be used to impound some 76 million square meters of water. Specifically, where the Chambas 2 Dam is being built, our commander in chief talked with the managers and technicians of this waterworks complex and analyzed with them several aspects of the length and construction timetable, material and equipment needs, and the future operation of the dam and the crops it will benefit.

[Begin recording] [Castro] How much gravel have you already used?

[Worker] Some 120,000 meters, commander.

[Castro] How much land has been used so far?

[Worker] One million four hundred [measure not specified].

[Castro] How much have you done so far?

[Worker] Some 120,000 meters.

[Castro] Of tobacco?

[Worker] Tobacco and cattle, mainly.

[Castro] Where does the water reach?

[Worker] No, the water [words indistinct]. The water borders a road that goes from Tamarindo....

[Castro, interrupting] The area.

[Worker] Ah, the entire area? Some 45 caballerias.

[Castro] Is this the most difficult project?

[Workers] Well, commander, it is one of the most difficult parts of the project.

[Castro] What will be the water level, the one over there?

[Worker] No, that is not the water level, commander. A section still needs to be built there, 3 meters are still left. The second [words indistinct] block.

[Castro] That one that is seen at the beginning?

[Worker] Not at the beginning. That one needs some more work, commander. Initially, this project was going to be a single dam. A closure area was planned for that area but the north circuit had to be detoured.

[Castro] If they had done the closure there, you would have had to close here also.

[Worker] No, commander. The problem is that this river, the Chamba River, goes behind those hills and we would pick it up there with the Canada Blanca.

[Castro] Ah. What kind of equipment are you using now?

[Worker] We have the levellers.

[Castro] How many?

[Worker] We have eight levellers. Five, six, and four are operating. Those levellers are 13 years old but they are operating.

[Castro] At what distance is the [words indistinct] from the leveller?

[Worker] It is at 1 km, 200 meters of rocky area. Between 400 and 500 cubic meters, commander.

[Castro] Each one of them. In what time?

[Worker] Fifteen trucks, commander.

[Castro] What is the type of trucks you have?

[Worker] Well, it's one of the latest ones, Pegaso. Taino-Pegaso.

[Castro] How many do you have of those?

[Worker] Fifteen.

[Castro] How many are being used?

[Worker] We have 10 at this time, commander. [end recording]

Fidel said that from now on, the Construction Ministry should take care of major projects regarding water resource management projects and the Agriculture Ministry can develop and build its own irrigation system. The chief of the Revolution said he is very pleased with this visit to the province. This territory is co-hosting with Camaguey Province the main events to mark the 36th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks assault.

Visits Sancti Spiritus

FL0905214889 Havana Television Service
in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] After touring Ciego de Avila Province, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro returned to Sancti Spiritus to visit the San Jose del Lago Motel, a beautiful installation where health tourism is being developed. There, the leader of the Revolution received an extensive explanation of the natural resources available in the place that can be used for therapeutic purposes.

[Begin Castro recording] I believe that more than tourism the outlook includes medical services in the country for people from abroad. Some come to receive extracorporeal litholapaxy treatments, others come to get treatment for heart problems. People also come to the Frank Pais Hospital. Others have come to Hilda Molina's news institute on neurological cells transplants. This is growing.

Health tourists.... [rephrases] Well, sometimes they are called health tourists because they come and also receive medical services in a tourist package. I believe vitiligo treatment is one of the ones that attracts more people although some clinics are being opened abroad in partnership with some foreign institutions. We were the ones who created the product. Cuba was the country to create the product. It is the most experienced in this and this is why they are coming. Services are being expanded abroad. I believe health in general could be a large source of income in the country. This is the health tourist to which we generally refer.

I believe that the health tourism that is mentioned here is a kind of domestic health tourism. We have developed for a long time.... [rephrases] For example, we built a hotel in the (Guea). It was improved. Work has also been done in San Diego de los Banos. Some thermal waters have been sought in Oriente. Thermal waters have been looked for and a domestic health tourism can be developed. More than tourism it is a domestic health service. In

reality, the prices that were noted here are for people whom doctors have recommended to come here. I think the domestic health tourism has a future as well as the international health tourism in these areas. The use of a place such as this one has to be studied so that the interest is there and the possibilities can be seen. In any event, it would be shared between international and domestic health tourists. This is regarding thermal waters.

Of course, our main resources for tourism are the beaches. In a way, the beach is also considered health tourism because people go to rest and recover. We went to Cayo Coco yesterday and saw the beaches. There are excellent beaches there. The key has great possibilities. It is very pretty. We had the opportunity of going through the causeway under construction. It is at an advanced stage. It can be crossed perfectly well but some bridges need to be finished. We put bridges.... [rephrases] bridges are placed so that water can go by for ecological reasons. The causeway has 22 bridges and a drawbridge. Although the water is shallow there, we do not want to close the possibility that a boat can cross it from one place to the other. This is why it has a floating bridge. Many possibilities can be seen there.

This has to be studied a lot. I was even asking if this water can be bottled or if there was enough water to bottle here or around here. The case may be that there is water around here with those possibilities. This is what we are thinking about. I came to see it. I see that it is pretty. The place is well kept. Construction has taken place and it is continuing. I already see ideas that are being worked on here. I believe it is very good. [end recording]

Tours Construction Sites

FL0905131489 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro yesterday visited important construction projects in the Ciego de Avila, Sancti Spiritus, Villa Clara, and Matanzas Provinces.

In Ciego de Avila, Fidel visited a hydraulic complex comprised of two dams and an equal number of [word indistinct]. Fidel said that the workers of Ciego de Avila are working well, with enthusiasm, and have great possibilities.

In Sancti Spiritus, Fidel visited the San Jose del Lago Resort in Mayajigua. Here he discussed Cuba's possibilities for developing health tourism with the medicinal waters available there.

In Villa Clara, Fidel visited the stone mill under construction in Purio. The commander in chief observed the momentum given to that project by the Abel Santamaria contingent. This collective of workers vowed to finish the mill in June, a month ahead of schedule. The mill will be able to produce 1.2 million cubic meters of gravel. Also in Villa Clara, Fidel visited the Alacranes Pavon Canal in Sagua la Grande. The canal will be able to hold more than

100 million cubic meters of water for sugarcane plantations. Fidel also toured the beaches of the northern coast. He said that the damage caused by Hurricane Kate was a setback that was turned into a victory.

Fidel concluded his tour in the Majaya camp in the northern coast of Matanzas. Here he visited the Julio Antonio Mella contingent which is constructing a 24-km causeway from Cienaga del Majaguillar to Cayo Corojal. Fidel was informed that the project is progressing about 100 meters a day. The commander in chief praised the work and was very interested in the workers' living conditions.

Soviet Military Specialists Receive Awards

FL0905183289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Today in Havana, a group of Soviet military specialists was awarded the Ernesto "Che" Guevara Order, third class, and the Internationalist Combatant, second class, and Combative Fraternity Medals in honor of the 44th anniversary of the victory over fascism.

According to the National News Agency, AIN, the ceremony given by the Revolutionary Armed Forces took place at the Mausoleum of the Soviet Internationalist Soldier. During the ceremony, a floral wreath was laid as a symbol of the friendship which unites both nations. The ceremony was concluded with a military review.

Before the ceremony's conclusion however, Major Pavel Kryanga [Video shows still of Soviet officer wearing service cap and short-sleeve khaki tunic worn on the outside. On his left shoulder epaulet, a single stripe and one star can be seen.], on behalf of the Soviet specialists, thanked Cuba's gesture and noted that Mikhail Gorbachev's recent visit marked a new phase of Cuban-Soviet friendship.

MININT Officers Decorated With Medals

FL0905223789 Havana Television Service in Spanish
0000 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Comrade Mai Chi Tho, member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Politburo and minister of interior of the brother country, has decorated a group of chiefs and officers of the MININT [Interior Ministry] with the medals for the fatherland's safety and for the defense of the fatherland's safety conferred by the Vietnamese Government and the Interior Ministry of that brother country.

The solemn ceremony was presided over by Division General Jose Abrantes Fernandez, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of interior, who received the medal for the fatherland's safety as a symbol of the friendship uniting the two peoples and institutions of the two countries.

Brigade General Alejandro Ronda Marrero, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of a MININT directorate, speaking on behalf of the medal recipients, highlighted the willingness of our combatants to share with the Vietnamese comrades their aspirations in the defense of the fatherland and the construction of a socialist Vietnam.

With this event, the Vietnamese Interior Ministry delegation ended an official and working visit. Numerous useful exchanges took place for the strengthening of the ties between the two peoples and institutions.

Public Health Official Speaks at WHO Meeting
FL0905191489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Jorge Antelo, Cuban vice minister of public health, has said at the World Health Organization assembly that the deterioration of health in the Third World is due to the foreign debt and problems caused by the economic policies of developed countries.

During the meeting in Geneva, Antelo said that the goals established by the WHO are being thwarted by the permanent deterioration caused by the falling prices of basic goods produced in Third World countries. Added to this, he said, is the current unjust system of international economic relations.

Antelo said that another factor thwarting the public health plans in developing countries is the arms race which prevents the designation of resources for social advancements. Some countries are not even able to confront the problem of hunger.

Antelo also said that another factor thwarting the WHO's efforts to attain health for everyone is the inversion of the net flow of financial resources. Because of the foreign debt, the northern hemisphere has received 60 billion pesos from debtor countries. The Cuban vice minister also said that social advancements have been interrupted for decades and in many cases, there has been a regression, thus demonstrating the failure of the debt adjustment strategy dictated primarily by the IMF.

First of all, he said, disproportionate sacrifices have been required from the poorest and least favored population, among which is the most vulnerable population, children. Secondly, the debt-ridden economies have not been healed.

Record Amount of Merchandise Unloaded in Ports
FL0905135289 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] More than 4.92 million tons of merchandise was unloaded in Cuban ports during the first 4 months of this year. This is the largest amount of merchandise unloaded in a 4-month period during the past several years.

Eight Provinces Fulfill Sugar Production Goals
FL0905133189 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Eight provinces have fulfilled their respective sugar production plans for this harvest. Havana Province is the most recent one to do so. This is the first time Havana Province has fulfilled its goal since 1981.

The other provinces that have met their production goals are Pinar del Rio, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Guantanamo, Las Tunas, Granma, and Santiago de Cuba.

Fifty-eight other sugar centers are continuing their operations throughout the country. It was also reported that 5,600 caballerias of sugarcane have been planted this year which is 41 percent of the planting goal through the end of May.

Havana Residents Arrested for Stealing Gasoline
FL0905164689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1230 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Members of the Department Against Economic Crimes of the National Revolutionary Police conducted an investigation into several service centers in the capital where irregularities were detected.

Humberto Munoz Martinez, administrator of the service center at 41st and 62d streets in Playa Municipality, was taken by surprise as he altered the counter on one of the gasoline pumps. Munoz Martinez violated the law stipulating that the internal part of the pump cannot be altered. His purpose was to take 2,500 liters of fuel.

Leonardo Gonzalez Orozco, a supplier, was arrested at the Capital Service Center in Villa Blanca when he disconnected an interior hose in the pump to fill a 60-liter tank with fuel. This citizen has a history of this kind of activity.

Aside from the legal action that will be taken against them, Munoz Martinez and Gonzalez Orozco were both dismissed from their jobs.

Citizen Alcides Juan Ricardo Laguna was also arrested during the police operation for possessing unused vouchers for more than 3,700 liters of special gasoline which he was going to sell to suppliers.

The accused will respond to the tribunals for these activities.

Guanabacoa Man Sentenced for Assault, Battery
*FL1005011289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 2312 GMT 9 May 89*

[Text] The first criminal court of Havana's Provincial People's Tribunal has sentenced citizen Roberto Quintela de la Cruz, resident of 216 Jesus Maria in Guanabacoa Municipality, to 4 years and 6 months of imprisonment for assault and robbery pursuant Article 327.1 of the current Criminal Code.

According to the evidence presented by the prosecutor, the criminal, together with two other individuals, attempted to hold up a citizen who was napping in a neighborhood park. After their attempts failed because of the resistance offered by the victim and the swift action taken by the police and residents of the area, two of the attackers fled and the main one was arrested and turned over to the prosecutor, who filed the appropriate charges.

Our "Exclusivo" reporter Richard Clenton asks, when will individuals such as this one, who want to live off the hard work of others, continue with their misdeeds. They need to understand once and for all that there is no room for them in our society and whenever they attempt to take advantage of peaceful citizens such as in this case, all the weight of the law will fall on them.

Caricom

Community's Foreign Ministers To Visit Haiti
*FL0905174089 Bridgetown CANA in English
1635 GMT 8 May 89*

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, May 8, CANA—The Caribbean Community (Caricom) has been invited to send a delegation of foreign ministers to Haiti for a first hand assessment of the situation in the politically-troubled state, it was announced here Monday. The Trinidad and Tobago minister of external affairs, Dr Sahadeo Basdeo made the disclosure as he addressed the opening of the 15th Caricom foreign ministers meeting here.

Basdeo said Port-of-Spain welcomed the invitation from the Haitian Foreign Minister Serge Charles, and hoped that Caricom would now find it possible to adopt a common position in Haiti. "This position should respect Haitian culture and traditions, scrupulously observe the right of the Haitian people to direct their own destiny and provide a means of gently nudging Haiti towards a more open, democratic society," he said.

The Trinidad foreign minister was one of three who addressed the Haiti issue during the opening sessions, all of them calling for practical programmes to alleviate the situation in Haiti. The other two were St Lucian Neville Cenac and Charles Carter of the Bahamas. Cenac contended that Caricom could no longer stand by and watch the situation in Haiti, with coups and counter-coups by the military, deteriorate further. "At this meeting we

must not be satisfied with merely expressing solidarity with the people of Haiti; we must try and devise a practical programme aimed at alleviating the situation."

Foreign Minister Carter spoke at length on the Haitian issue, stating that the plight of "our Haitian neighbours" calls out for attention, with hundreds risking their lives daily "in vain attempts to flee the economic quagmire and the political uncertainty of Haiti."

He said in spite of the fact that Caricom states they were unable to make meaningful financial contributions towards the solution of Haiti's problems, they could not ignore the request for assistance to a struggling neighbor. "My government believes that no meaningful change will come as a result of exhortations from afar. If we in the Caribbean chose to make Haiti a political pariah, we would join a long tradition of former colonial powers who ostracised Haiti at the time of her independence because they were uncomfortable with her colour."

He suggested that Caricom in playing a constructive role in Haiti must seek innovative ways to encourage Haiti along the path to change. "This will best be done through association and not isolation," he commented. Carter said it was for this reason that the Bahamian Government wanted Haiti to be encouraged to observe and participate in a meeting of the sub-region.

In the way they will become more familiar with our systems and traditions, and so we may better understand their history and the various obstacles which have mitigated against their true development," Carter said. He also called for support of Haiti's access to development assistance from international organisations and association, especially in areas to the development of agriculture, literacy, social services and infrastructure.

Bahamas

Police Commissioner Reports Outbreak of Violence
*FL0905183389 Bridgetown CANA in English
1520 GMT 8 May 89*

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, May 8, CANA—A spate of shootings and armed robberies here over the past week has triggered an appeal from the Bahamas police commissioner, Bernard K. Bonamy, for information that could lead to curbing the carnage.

In a televised broadcast the commissioner said that from what the police has "collected by way of investigations...I am led to believe that there are all sorts of sophisticated weapons out there: Uzis, submachine guns, high-powered weapons, handguns and revolvers."

On May 1, two men were shot off a wall on which they were sitting, but the passenger of a car with two passengers. One of the injured men has since died.

The police have one man in custody and are seeking another man, in relation to the incident.

On May 2 a man was shot in an argument over a dog. On May 3 a young man was standing outside his home when two men rode up to him on a motor cycle and shot him in the chest with a handgun. The injured man is listed in critical condition at a private hospital.

In addition, there have been, so far this month, several robberies committed by men armed with various types of guns. In one such robbery last Thursday, one of the escaping bandits was shot by a security officer.

Later the same day customers in the foodstore at which the shooting took place had to run for thier lives when a gang of young men armed with guns swarmed the store looking for the security officer who had done the shooting.

Bonamy said a new disregard for human life seems to have been ushered in by the month of May.

He said there has been "a spate of violent behavior...heretofore unheard of in the annals of Bahamian history." The Bahamas top cop appealed to the law-abiding public for "any kind of information" which could help the police "curb this capricious waste of human lives."

Grenada

Opposition Leader Criticizes Government Actions
FL0905211089 Bridgetown CANA in English
1210 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, May 9, CANA—Leader of the ruling New National Party in Grenada Dr Keith Mitchell, claiming lack of support from Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, says disinterested party members run the risk of being left "by the wayside."

Mitchell also told CANA Monday he did not support governments repeated banning of books, regarded as subversive material, and its refusal to permit Don Rojas, former press secretary to late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, to attend a conference organised by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement.

Several boxes of books published by Pathfinder Press and intended for the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement have been held and returned to the publishers.

Mitchell said the time for "sitting and waiting" had passed and he was convinced the party must move forward, organising every constituency to present representatives whom the people want to take care of the electoral process.

The works minister defeated Blaize for the post of leader at the party's convention in January.

"I cannot say that the prime minister has accepted me as political leader," Mitchell said, and I'm not worried about that any more."

Mitchell has charged since his election that while his personal relationship with Blaize is good, he and the prime minister do not share views on "the way forward" and the prime minister appears to be angry over his defeat.

"If Herbert (Blaize) does not want to co-operate and he appears not to respect the decision of the convention." The minister said, "The people have to judge that and those people who are not showing interest in the party may be left by the wayside."

The NNP was "the best hope for Grenada at this time," Mitchell added. He said regardless of whether he or Blaize was the leader, the party must move to take care of the state and not wait for somebody to decide whether or not he wanted to cooperate.

Political parties in Grenada are gearing up to contest general elections constitutionally due to be called by March next year.

Mitchell said he did not see the justification in banning books which could be bought anywhere and the action created a perception that government was "afraid of something."

Costa Rica

Arias Wants 'People's Will' Respected in Panama
PA1005012489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish
0003 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] San Jose, 9 May (DPA)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias issued a written statement this afternoon in which he underscored that "the people's will should be respected in Panama."

Arias pointed out that "the Panamanian people's massive and enthusiastic participation on 7 May is proof of their desire to solve their conflicts through peaceful means."

President Arias emphasized that "the Costa Rican Government hopes that the official election results in Panama will faithfully reflect the electorate's sovereign decision, and it hopes that democracy will definitely and irreversibly be established in that country."

He adds that "those official results should concur with what many prestigious international observers confirmed in Panama."

President Arias' note concluded: "The foundation of democracy is its respect for the people's choice at the polls, and when this choice is disrespected, democracy is seriously harmed, and liberty and peace suffer from the serious consequences."

Foreign Minister Comments on Panama Elections
PA0905153389 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
1355 GMT 9 May 89

[Statement by Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] We cannot go ahead of ourselves and talk about a hypothetical situation. [words indistinct] What we have said is that it is important that the will of the Panamanian people be respected. [words indistinct] The elections cannot simply be a sham to cover up the will of the people and to do what the army commander wants. We have also said that there should be an agreement within the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] to defend democracy.

Costa Rica would like to see all democracies reach agreements—not just in this case. I cannot say something has already happened to undermine the will of the Panamanian people. We have no definite reports in this regard, but in any case, we believe that democracies must fight for their respect. I have just said that the basic principles we support are not only nonintervention, but also respect for the will of the people and human rights. These are values that transcend a country's borders. These are essential human rights. These are the rights that are necessary to create in Latin America a country of peace and freedom.

Without a doubt, we must make sure that democracy lives in all Latin American countries, especially in neighboring countries, because they directly affect the Costa Rican people.

Government Expresses Solidarity With Cerezo
PA1005033589 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish
0100 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] In view of the coup attempt by a minority sector of Guatemalans, which was put down by Guatemalan authorities, the Costa Rican Government hereby expresses its solidarity with the constitutional government of President Vinicio Cerezo. The Costa Rican Government also expresses its repudiation of those who attempt to undermine the democratic process in Guatemala and who try to solve conflicts through violent means.

The Costa Rican Government issued this communique this afternoon after obtaining official Guatemalan Government reports on the attempt to overthrow President Vinicio Cerezo.

El Salvador

Foreign Minister on Panama, Guatemala Events
PA0905210789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 May 89

["Excerpt" of interview with Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta by David Rivas on 9 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rivas] Mr Foreign Minister, what is your opinion of the situation prevailing at present in Panama? What is the Salvadoran Government's opinion?

[Acevedo] Of course, we support the democratic process. We will issue a communique in the course of the day, to be published in the newspapers tomorrow, condemning actions to obstruct a clean democratic process. We ask only for clean results, in line with the law, as occurred in El Salvador, and we emphatically condemn any attempt at fraud by the present Panamanian Government. El Salvador is firmly on the side of the principles that it has always sustained in the international sphere: respect for pluralism and the people's right to choose their rulers. That is why we will issue a firm communique expressing our rejection of any attempted violence in the electoral process, and urging the Panamanian people to continue their struggle for liberation from the dictatorship they are enduring.

[Rivas] Mr Foreign Minister, according to information available to you, what are the results of the presidential elections?

[Acevedo] We do not have the official results. Our embassy in Panama is closely watching all events. I understand from the news that the opposition, the Civic Crusade, and the parties that support it have won. The results should be

released as soon as possible, because time is the worst enemy of democracy in these cases. Time lends itself to fraud and manipulation. That is why we demand that the Panamanian Government allow the vote count as soon as possible and release results immediately.

[Rivas] One last question, Mr Foreign Minister. Democracy in Guatemala was again threatened by a coup attempt. Does the Salvadoran Government know anything about this?

[Acevedo] Of course. This very morning, we sent a communique to President Cerezo from President Duarte supporting his position as a true democrat and the process of national stability, and we have condemned this attempted coup, which has only served to threaten the Central American democracies that have cost us so much. It would be a [word indistinct] coup that would invalidate everything that we have achieved through Esquipulas II and everything that has been obtained from the international community with regard to support and backing for democratic processes.

[San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish at 1700 GMT reports that the foreign minister also said he believes there should be an urgent meeting of the executive commission of foreign ministers of Central America to issue a joint call to defend democracy in Guatemala.]

FMLN Sabotage Cuts Power 40 Percent
PA0905235289 Paris AFP in Spanish
2213 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] San Salvador, 9 May (AFP)—Official sources reported today that the Salvadoran guerrilla groups have increased their sabotage against the national electrical system in the past few hours, leaving 40 percent of the national territory without electricity, while intermittent blackouts have occurred in the rest of the country.

The entire eastern zone of the country was without electricity today, according to a report from the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission (CEL), which stated that on Monday, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas blew up several structures in that region.

The report added that the sabotage occurred on the outskirts of Usulután Department, where other structures were also blown up early this morning. In this capital, FMLN urban commandos blew up at least three poles supporting secondary lines, and an as yet undetermined number of poles and towers in different locations in the country's central and western region.

In the wake of the new attacks against the electrical system, on Monday the CEL started a turbogas plant in the eastern city of San Miguel to partially solve the country's energy crisis.

Meanwhile, National Police Director Colonel Carlos Guzman said that the FMLN will increase its sabotage actions as 1 June approaches, when the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) will take power.

Col Guzman also announced that military intelligence has discovered "plans to murder" Armed Forces high command members and future ARENA administration officials. Guzman added that the plans would be carried out by FMLN urban commandos. "The death threats do not frighten us," he said, without providing details on the guerrillas' plans to carry out the murders.

Guatemala

Cerezo, Gramajo Hold News Conference
PA0905192489 Guatemala City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1655 GMT 9 May 89

[News conference held by President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo and Defense Minister Hector Alejandro Gramajo at the National Palace in Guatemala City; moderated by Presidential Public Relations Secretary Claudia Arenas—live]

[Text] [Arenas] Good morning, Guatemalan people and friends of the press. Today, we will begin our news conference with a statement by President Vinicio Cerezo, followed by a statement by Defense Minister General Gramajo, after which there will be a question-and-answer period. If you wish to ask questions later, please state your name and the media you represent. Thank you.

[Cerezo] Dear friends of the press and Guatemalan people who are listening at this time, we wish to inform you that this morning, a small group of retired officers and some others who had been discharged from the Guatemalan Army made an attempt to subvert order and disrupt the country's institutional and constitutional system. However, for the peace of mind and reassurance of the Guatemalan people, I can say that the entire situation is now completely under the control of the government and the Guatemalan Armed Forces. The Armed Forces have again carried out their duty to the Guatemalan nation by providing the protection that the people and the Constitution deserve. In other words, the Guatemalan Armed Forces, fulfilling their duty as established in the Constitution, have taken the speedy action needed to control that small group of people who had attempted to subvert and disrupt the institutional system.

It is important to tell the Guatemalan people that we must realize that our democratic process may occasionally be subjected to problems of this type. We may face certain obstacles on the way to the permanent consolidation of the democracy in which we live. Nevertheless, the general conditions prevailing in the country; the need to maintain stability for economic and social development; and the sense of duty that has already been consolidated in the Guatemalan Armed Forces, in the people, in the various institutions, and in political and

social groups have allowed us—as they allowed us in the past—to maintain a calm, firm control in response to any attempt to disrupt a historic process that belongs to the Guatemalan people and their institutions.

I am accompanied by the defense minister and the government minister, who is responsible for the security of the state, to give you accurate information on what has occurred. We want to reassure the Guatemalan people and tell them that we continue working to meet the nation's basic needs.

I must tell you that they will answer whatever questions are deemed necessary after the defense minister gives a brief report with specific information. Then there will be the question-and-answer period mentioned by my public relations secretary.

Therefore, dear Guatemalan people, with the calm, firmness, and peace that I enjoy because of the support of the Army, the people, and their institutions, for the benefit of the democratic system, we inform you that you can be absolutely calm. The situation is under control. We will continue working toward the goals we had already set for ourselves.

I now turn the microphone over to the defense minister, who will give you specific information, to be followed by the questions and answers.

[Gramajo] Ladies and gentlemen, as was stated by the president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, I am going to discuss the events that took place beginning at 0500 today so that you can be informed of this regrettable incident. I find it very painful to discuss this, because the actions of a minority—so tiny that they do not even constitute a minority—affect the prestige and the reputation of the entire Armed Forces.

To explain the incident in a general manner, I wish to tell you that three groups of officers are involved in this incident. The first group comprises officers who were discharged 1 year ago after the May 1988 coup attempt. Four of the discharged officers are Lieutenant Colonel Gustavo Padilla Morales, Captain Alan Castellano Reyes, Major Gustavo Diaz Lopez, and Lt Col Mazariegos Ramirez. Those men were discharged from the Army around 1 year ago.

The second group of officers who are involved in the incident are those we describe as men who feel displaced within the Guatemalan Army. Those men are Colonel (Raul De Eta Oliva), Col Cesar Ramon Quintero, and Col Francisco Castellanos Gongora, who are on active duty at COPECODECA. COPECODECA is an international organization called the Permanent Commission of the Central American Defense Council. In addition, Air Force Col (Adenoldo Bales) was involved in the incident. He was spending a few days in Guatemala while waiting to be officially assigned as Guatemalan military attache in Panama. He had just been transferred from

that position at our embassy in Uruguay. Captain Romeo Guevara Reyes, who—as you know very well—was dismissed from the National Police last week, was also involved in the incident.

Unfortunately, there was a third group of officers who were involved in this morning's regrettable incident. These officers, who are either on active duty or reserve status, commanded troops and guarded planes. Those men are Captain De La Pena, Col Julio Padilla Gonzalez, and Reserve Lt Col Mendez Tobias.

The action centered around the Air Force. Col Galvez and two Air Force officers flew an A-37 plane and a helicopter with the intention of supporting ground units. Col Julio Padilla, who was in charge of guarding the planes—in other words, who was a member of the Air Force Tactical Group—managed to gather 150 men. Half of them went to surround the Beige House [Guatemalan Defense Minister's residence], and the other half were sent to try to block the entrance to the city of Escuintla.

Col Mendez Tobias, who was inside the Army Headquarters, in cooperation with Col (De Eta) got approximately 150 men out of the Matamoros (?Barracks) with the intention of taking control over some—according to them—key places such as GUATEL [Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise], Radio Nacional, [words indistinct], and the Atlantic highway leading to Guatemala City. There was no action besides what I just described—only the plane and the helicopter flew over the city.

We sent armored vehicles from the Mariscal Savala Barracks to protect the Beige House. Armored vehicles from the [word indistinct] Guard were deployed at the Air Force headquarters to restore order in the Air Force Tactical Group, where Col Julio Garcia had [words indistinct] at gunpoint.

I wish to tell you that all those men are under arrest except for Castellanos Gongora and Castellanos Reyes. All the others were arrested. We are carrying out the necessary investigations.

In our opinion, the action carried out by the officers who were discharged last year was their way of commemorating the anniversary of last year's attempted coup and their way of keeping their group alive.

We regret the lack of military morality and solidarity of those who feel displaced within the Army. We also regret that Col Julio Padilla, Capt de la Pena, and Lt Col Mendez Tobias did not honor the trust we placed in them.

We will continue the investigations because we are sure this coup attempt was planned by the officers who were discharged last year.

Gentlemen, I have respectfully fulfilled the orders of the president; however, I do not want to give further details so as not to interfere with the judicial process, as happened last year when these officers, who lack military principles, were able to trick the law and be set free again. I would like you to excuse me. We have informed you, but I do not want to give further details because I do not want to obstruct the judicial process. You must be sure we are doing the proper thing.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to tell every soldier serving the fatherland that the plotters have been identified. You know about the personal reasons they may have had. Specifically, an Air Force colonel, Galvez, is the principal shareholder in one of the national aviation enterprises that had come under investigation because of the problem we had in the Air Force.

All Army officers know who we are referring to, and they know what this is all about. You must remain calm because there are no political or ideological implications in this matter. Of course, investigations will continue, but I can tell you this much.

Gentlemen, I ask you to excuse me. I do not want to give further details until the attorney general initiates the process. We do not want to interfere with him. Thank you.

[Arenas] We will now begin taking questions. Alberto Antoniotti from ECO.

[Antoniotti] Mr President, [words indistinct] telephone call from one of those involved in this movement. He said this was not a coup d'etat but just a way to pressure the government into dismissing the ministers who are with you this very moment—the defense and government ministers. However, they did not describe it as a coup d'etat?

[Cerezo] The truth is that they did not make any specific demands. On the contrary, one of them was carrying a manifesto, the details of which we will disclose later. The document included a series of statements to justify the attempt to subvert order. They had prepared a declaration to justify a change in government. We think that for whatever reason, under pressure from others or for personal reasons—which is what we currently believe—they were trying to cause an in-depth change in the government. There was no specific request about a change in ministers. I must point out that those people should begin to realize that the Guatemalan Government will not yield to blackmail of any kind, especially when the institutional process is at stake. Cabinet changes are made at the proper time by the presidency, as they should be. So even if they had made that request, we would have rejected it because decisions on cabinet changes are made according to the political interests of the nation and of the nation's government.

We found a document that could have been a rough draft of a proposal to change the government. We cannot describe the document because it will be used as evidence in the relevant courts.

[Arenas] Mr President, we have a reporter from Channel 7 Television [Notisiete], please.

[Reporter] Mr President, there are a few questions I would like to ask you. One is about a rumor that a member of the Air Force had been killed. The other is: Are there any civilians involved in this coup attempt? We also want to know why (Castellanos Gondola) and (Castellanos Reyes) were not arrested. Did they leave the country?

[Cerezo] First, we do not have any evidence to suspect the participation of civilians or any political group. I can say that with absolute certainty; thus far we do not know of any political party or group involved. Should the investigation reveal the participation of civilians, they will be investigated and brought to justice. Regarding arrests, they were all arrested. Some tried to escape when they realized the coup had failed, but only two managed to flee. All the others were detained on the spot and, of course, they have been sent to where they will be confined until they are taken to military courts. We have no knowledge of any deaths as a result of the attempt to subvert order or the measures to overcome the attempt.

[Arenas] Thank you, Mr President. Next is the representative from Teleprensa.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr President, we would like to know about the current situations in the other military garrisons in the country's interior. Also, do you know if the coupists had any support from other [word indistinct] in the interior of the country?

[Cerezo] I can assure you that the country's interior is calm. We have received calls from the commanders in the interior supporting the government and expressing their willingness to send troops if necessary. There is complete tranquillity and support for the institutional process, as is expected from the Guatemalan Army. That is why we have said that the Army, as an institution, has complied with its responsibility. Only a few individuals who had already been punished for irresponsibility or lack of professionalism are involved. So there is no problem. Any other questions? There is no problem in the interior.

[Arenas] We will now close the question and answer period. We thank you...

[Cerezo, interrupting] I would like to make a final statement. Dear friends, it is necessary that the Guatemalan people know some important facts. The Guatemalan Government and Army have received full international support. At this time, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has presented an initiative before

the OAS to express specific support for the government and to congratulate the Army for complying with its duty. We have received calls from all the Central American presidents, for which we are grateful, as well as from European and American presidents. The U.S. State Department also issued a statement expressing its total support for the democratic process and for the Guatemalan Government and Army. Therefore, on behalf of the Guatemalan people, I want to express our gratitude for that solidarity.

I want the Guatemalan people to know that Guatemalan democracy has total domestic and international support. We urge our people to remain confident and assured. Of course, we expect to receive many expressions of support and solidarity with the government in the next few hours.

As Gen Gramajo said, it is regrettable that the image of an institution that opened the democratic process and continues to support it has been somewhat tarnished by the irresponsibility of a few individuals. However, the attitude of the majority of the officers of the Guatemalan Army and of its High Command makes the Guatemalan people proud of their stance, which is a victory for all Guatemalans. Thank you, and we will keep you informed.

Nicaragua

Ortega Says Meeting With Thatcher 'Positive'
PA0905202789 Managua Sistema Sandinista
Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 May 89

[Statement by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra during a news conference following his meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London on 8 May—recorded]

[Text] This is the first time I have met the prime minister, and the dialogue in itself is positive, because we are in a world where dialogue has become a fundamental way to seek solutions to problems. Therefore, I am satisfied with the meeting I had with Ms Thatcher.

It was a frank conversation; we were both frank and direct. I think it is positive that Ms Thatcher said she does not accept pressure from anyone. In other words, she draws up and directs her own policies. She also said she knows how to be just and fair and that her definitive opinion on Nicaragua will be based on fact.

Logically, the topics discussed were predominantly of a political nature; we discussed problems in the [Central America] region, expressing our respective views. We undoubtedly agreed on our positions in favor of peace and democracy. I also made it clear to her that my interest in meeting with her was fundamentally political, as we have no immediate expectations in the economic field.

Therefore, I feel the meeting was positive. We had the opportunity to discuss various topics of mutual interest. I told her she could play a very important role as mediator with the United States.

Pledges More Democracy
PM0905141289 London ITV Television Network
in English 1600 GMT 8 May 89

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega (in Spanish with superimposed English translation) by news presenter John Snow in London, monitored in progress in the framework of the channel 4 "News" program; no date given—recorded]

[Text] [Snow] Now Ortega has to deal with a new American President. I put it to him that so far Mr Bush hadn't shown any sign of wanting to improve relations with his southern neighbor.

[Ortega] Well, you have to remember that Mr Bush was also part of the previous administration and the previous policymaking. Obviously he can't simply cut away, so this is where we Central Americans—but I also feel that the European Community—must lend him a hand in presenting him with a feasible policy alternative and push him a little along those lines.

[Snow] The contra war: Do you feel it is definitely over now, or is there still a danger that either a combination of local and American support will revive it?

[Ortega] Well, the Reagan administration strategy of trying to overthrow militarily the Nicaraguan Government has clearly failed, and there's no going back to that. What they—the contras—still serve as an instrument of military pressure, and yes, every day, there's one or two Nicaraguans that died or that are wounded on account of contra... of contra attacks. Nonetheless, what we're emphasizing is that that war is not going to keep us from continuing to deepen Nicaraguan democracy: The electoral process is under way; the campaign is about to start; the elections will be held in February 1990; and we're going to respond to the contra threat with more democracy.

[Snow] At this time, then, some months ahead of the election—which isn't till next year—you're confident of winning?

[Ortega] Yes, I trust that we're going to win.

[Snow] Win the election, but then, what about the economic crisis in the country? Are you confident, too, that you can turn that around? One of the problems, surely, is that the great cost has been the loss of much of the work you did on the health campaigns and on literacy, and the rest of it.

[Ortega] That, precisely, is our challenge: to rebuild at an even quicker rate the schools and health clinics than they can destroy. And in this we count not only with the basic

effort of the Nicaraguan people but the participation of international volunteers from all over the world—in Europe and Britain—and we hope that we're going to build faster than they can destroy, because the destruction, unfortunately, is still taking place.

Ortega Seeks Economic Aid From Norway

PM0805121589 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 29 Apr 89 p 9

[Halvor Tjonn report: "Ortega: Nicaragua Fighting for Its Life"]

[Text] "The economic crisis in Nicaragua has cost our people sacrifices, blood, and sweat," President Daniel Ortega said when he paid a lightning visit to Oslo yesterday. "To be able to emerge from the crisis, Nicaragua needs further support," he stressed.

During his short visit the Nicaraguan leader had a 1.5 hour meeting with Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, and Development Aid Minister Kirsti Kolle Grondahl. At the meeting Ortega was given assurances that Norway will have a high-level representative at the international aid conference that is being arranged in Stockholm next month. No mention was made of any figure for an additional Norwegian grant to Nicaragua, but in the past the Development Aid Ministry has said that the figure will be 30 million kroner.

"We are asking the international community for a total of \$250 million. This money is very necessary for our economic recovery. The only question now is whether Nicaragua will survive. The sum of \$250 million for 3.5 million Nicaraguans is not a lot, particularly in light of the fact that the U.S. Congress recently granted \$67 million to 11,000 contras," the president said at a press conference at the Foreign Ministry.

Nicaragua has pledged to hold free elections next year, but the government and the opposition have been locked in bitter conflict over new electoral legislation. Ortega did not say anything to indicate that he could envisage making concessions to the opposition. Nor did he comment on direct statements by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borges, who said in a recent newspaper interview that in the past the Sandinistas were not in earnest when they talked about democracy.

"Our revolution has always been a supporter of political pluralism," said Ortega, who was dressed in a uniform during his visit to Oslo. "We are not soldiers; we have only fought for a political and social experiment. But the fighting that the United States has forced on us has never given us an opportunity to show that we are not only good at fighting, but also good at building a country."

Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg told AFTENPOSTEN that Prime Minister Brundtland and President Ortega had what he described as "a highly satisfactory

conversation" when they met at the government's entertainment building on Parkveien. The Norwegian prime minister voiced her misgivings about developments in Nicaragua and expressed particular skepticism about the lack of distinction between party and state.

"Our point of departure is to contribute to the best of our ability to democratic developments in Nicaragua. For that reason we attach great importance to the human rights situation. As far as the large amount of international financial aid to Nicaragua now in the pipeline is concerned, it will be given only for concrete development projects. Therefore the money can in no way be seen as some sort of election campaign support for the Sandinistas," Stoltenberg stressed.

Reportage on Response to Panamanian Elections

Arce Rejects U.S. Involvement

PA0905162989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1218 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Commander Bayardo Arce, vice coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front's Executive Commission, has said that U.S. interference in the Panamanian elections undermines the region's sovereignty. Commander Arce discussed preparations for the upcoming elections in our country and the recent electoral reforms with a delegation from the U.S. Bar Association.

Commander Arce said that as far as results of the elections in Panama are concerned, he prefers the polls conducted by European observers that indicate the candidate of the National Liberation Coalition is leading so far.

The revolutionary leader rejected the Washington government's interference in the Panamanian elections, because, he said, to accept this would set a dangerous precedent in terms of the sovereignty of the Latin American countries.

The delegation of lawyers announced it will send several representatives to observe the Nicaraguan elections.

Opposition Leaders Denied Visas

PA0705043989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1401 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Managua, 5 May (DPA)—The Panamanian Consulate in Managua has denied visas to six leaders of the Nicaraguan political opposition, who had been invited to observe Panama's elections on Sunday by a U.S.-based political organization.

A faction of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party (PSC) has charged that the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs [Instituto Nacional Democrata Para Asuntos Internacionales] (NDI) extended the invitation to the opposition leaders, but that it has not as yet succeeded in obtaining visas for them from the Panamanian Government.

The opposition leaders belong to the opposition bloc known as the "Group of 15" [as received]. The group invited to participate in the Panamanian elections as observers included Carlos Huembes, president of the rightist "Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board"; Mauricio Diaz, president of the Popular Social Christian Party (PPSC); Agustin Jarquin, leader of a PSC faction applying for legal status; Cairo Manuel Lopez, the same party's international affairs secretary; Adolfo Jarq, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party (PSD); and Edmundo Castillo, leader of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party (PCN), which has yet to attain legal status.

The opposition leaders said that the Panamanian Consulate in Managua has told them that it has not been authorized to grant them visas.

Duque on H. Ortega's Support
PA0905144589 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
8 May 89 pp 1, 5

[Report by Maria Alicia Talavera]

[Text] Panama City—In response to statements by Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra concerning Yankee invasion threats against Panama, COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] candidate Carlos Duque Jaen told BARRICADA yesterday that "Nicaraguans express solidarity because they have experienced foreign intervention in their internal affairs. I am appealing to the American countries for solidarity, Duque said; I ask them to consider Panama a mirror."

Shortly after voting, Duque, accompanied by his wife and members of the eight political parties comprising COLINA, pointed out that the Panamanian people displayed their civic disposition and peace-loving nature during the elections. Duque spoke of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP) efforts, which, he said, are aimed at safeguarding peace and calm. Duque said, "I am confident my victory will not be unproductive," and added that he had visited several voting tables along with members of the various COLINA parties.

What if the opposition wins? a European reporter asked, and Duque responded: "You must ask President Bush that question, because he said beforehand there would be fraud."

BARRICADA also asked what Panama's position would be if Duque won the elections. What position would be adopted in the Central American peace process? Duque answered: "Panama has always fervently supported peace in Central America. The Contadora Group war born in Panama, and we will continue to seek peace among Central Americans. COLINA offers hope, work, and especially peace. We are not vengeance-seekers or the people's enemies."

Meanwhile, Panama's Radio Nacional broadcast Gen Ortega's news conference in Managua Saturday, live. Yesterday's edition of the newspaper, LA REPUBLICA, highlighted the Nicaraguan defense minister's statements under a headline that read "Sandinist Army Prepared to Fight in Case of Gringo Invasion of Panama."

Meanwhile, Southern Command television has aired codes "warning" Canal Zone employees to avoid mobilizing or participating in activities related to Panama's elections.

For its part, the FDP—according to reports—has kept a continuous watch on roads leading to Yankee bases in Panama to guarantee the defense of Panama's sovereignty in view of the threats issued over the past few days by the Bush administration, which are a continuation of the anti-Panamanian campaign initiated by the White House in mid-1987.

Meanwhile, the Executive Branch has decreed the closure of public and private offices nationwide today as a way to facilitate the electoral process.

Radio Catolica Says Power Cut 'Vindictive'
PA1005002189 Managua Radio Corporacion
in Spanish 2325 GMT 9 May 89

[Report on telephone interview with Radio Catolica Director Msgr Bismarck Carballo by unidentified reporter on 9 May; place not given]

[Text] Radio Catolica Director Msgr Bismarck Carballo said today that INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy] has cut off electricity to the radio station because the institute discovered today that Radio Catolica owes INE 5 million cordobas.

Msgr Carballo said during a telephone conversation with this news program that the INE measure violates the radio station's rights and that there is no telling what is behind this action. This is what Msgr Carballo said:

[Begin recording] [Carballo] INE has arbitrarily cut off power to our station. The radio station views this as an arbitrary and vindictive action. We went back on the air this past Saturday, after having been off the air for 10 days because our transmission equipment had been damaged by a high voltage current.

We denounced this on Saturday, and INE reacted by ordering a power cut-off, claiming that there is a debt, which actually does not exist because—according to our accounting—we have paid our bills on time. The only unpaid bill is the one that they sent us only a few days ago.

I also believe that this INE action goes against what President Ortega said in El Salvador to the effect that the Nicaraguan Government is going to provide facilities to

the independent media to enable them to function. We want to take advantage of this opportunity to denounce this arbitrary measure and to demand an explanation from the INE director.

[Reporter] Msgr Carballo, how soon can you have this problem resolved?

[Carballo] We would like to have the problem resolved right now, but INE has just sent us the note it sends out whenever it cuts off electricity, and we are trying to find out with whom we have to speak to resolve the problem. We have tried to speak with the Media Directorate to see if it can take care of the matter to avoid unnecessary conflicts. [end recording]

Reportage on Current Contra Activities, Requests

Desire Repatriation Guarantees

FL0905205589 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE
in Spanish 7 May 89 p 8

[Text] In a letter sent to Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Irias, the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] has asked to be informed of the conditions that must exist in Nicaragua so that repatriation, relocation, and demobilization can be implemented in that country." [quotation marks as published]

The letter states that those conditions are of political, economic, and, especially, security importance for those who are up in arms as are the guarantees and mechanisms of verification that will ensure the effective implementation of those measures.

"The RN is interested in, and feels it has the right to know about, the demobilization, repatriation, and voluntary relocation plan that is being drafted," the document states.

"Just as we have recently told each of the Central American presidents, that plan must be the result of the democratization process that must be implemented in Nicaragua," the RN adds.

In conclusion, the letter states that a political-military commission has been appointed to attend the scheduled meeting with the area foreign ministers.

U.S. Embassy Said To Supply

PA0605190089 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO
in Spanish 4 May 89 p 12

[Article by J. Zamora E.]

[Text] Esteli—Hondurans Juan Carlos Turcios Herrera and Otilio Izaguirre-Alvarenga—arrested on 28 April by Sandinist authorities at the Las Manos border post—are responsible for providing war materiel and food to the counterrevolutionaries stationed in Honduras. This activity is coordinated by the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa.

On Tuesday, Major Daniel Pozo, chief of staff of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] in Military Region No 1, showed reporters documents signed by Sandra J. Borens, contract administrator for the U.S. Embassy in Honduras, authorizing transportation charges for the Mercedes Benz truck in which the arrested Hondurans entered the country.

In the document, Borens warns the Honduran Army that the owners, drivers, and drivers' assistants of the vehicles involved in the activity that she coordinates are not to be bothered by any Honduran military command.

The arrested men jotted down in a notebook the cargo they transported to Yamales, Capire, Trojes, and other places where the contras have their camps.

Pozo explained that this U.S. Embassy activity has a great deal to do with the recent infiltration of Somozist guards into the Yamales, La Gongolona, El Santito Hill, Murra, and Arenales border areas, in flagrant violation of the presidential agreements signed in El Salvador and the unilateral cease-fire ordered by the revolutionary government.

Pozo also linked the Yankee embassy's contra supply operation in Honduras with the work being done by the guards under Bermudez' command in preparing Honduran landing strips to facilitate intercommunication and to ensure that they are not isolated in time of need. There have been recent observation flights within our airspace by F-2, RU-21, and RC-12-D Honduran planes in the Jalapa area.

Two Peasants Were Murdered

The EPS chief of staff in Military Region No 1 disclosed that in the last few days, a group of counterrevolutionaries murdered two peasants in the El Jilguerito area, near El Jocote, a few kilometers northeast of Condega.

He said that on Tuesday, five Somozist mercenaries turned themselves in to EPS forces 4 km southeast of El Jocote, and, although no names were given, he said that he would release their names later this week.

76 Desert in El Rama Jan-Apr

PA0705142989 Managua Radio Sandino
in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] The Peace Commission's El Rama branch has reported that 76 counterrevolutionaries deserted from the contras' ranks between January and April in its area.

The deserters include Rolando Ramirez, alias (El Chocoyo), 20, who was active in the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces for 5 years under the orders of the chieftain known as Dumas; Victor Duarte Romero, nicknamed Wilmer; Santos Perez Rocha, 70, who was a courier for El Tigrito; and Francisco Martinez Bravo, 56, who was active for 7 years in the [word indistinct] group.

Other deserters are the brothers Jose Lopez Hurtado, 18, and Manuel Lopez Hurtado, 27.

8 Reportedly Killed in Attack

PA0905215389 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1930 GMT 9 May 89

[Report by Juan Carlos Sarmiento]

[Text] At 0430 yesterday, a group of 30 contras of the Segovia Regional Commando attacked the Brasilia Cooperative located 23 km northeast of Matiguas.

Carlos Lopez Picado, a member of the cooperative, was killed during the 2-hour attack. In addition, Captain Apolonio Martinez of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], Eliodoro Ochoa Hernandez, and Valderiano Perez Ochoa were wounded and are currently at the regional hospital.

Meanwhile, the sixth region's Public Relations Office reported the death of eight mercenaries, including the group's commander, known as Juan. Numerous contras were reportedly wounded in the attack.

The cooperative's self-defense unit repelled the contra attack. On many occasions this unit has prevented the mercenaries from achieving their objective of sowing terror in peasant communities.

Ramirez on Current Economic, Political Situation

PM0805135489 London MORNING STAR in English
8 May 89 p 6

[Interview with Vice President Sergio Ramirez by Gianni Beretta: "Nicaragua Survives"—date, place not given]

[Text] [Beretta] How can the revolution survive given the present economic crisis?

[Ramirez] The revolution has survived so far because it is based on a distinct type of political consensus.

The 10 years since the revolution have been marked by aggression from outside so moral and political factors which give cohesion to the revolution will become more powerful and important.

This may seem to be a romantic or idealistic view but it has been provided by events.

All the economic pressures that would have made a shambles out of any other society have not led to riots, looting or turbulence here.

[Beretta] Has the revolution been a political triumph, but an economic failure?

[Ramirez] The economic results during war and political victory itself are not contradictory, nor can they be viewed separately.

I would find war and economic prosperity contradictory, but war and economic deterioration go together.

I think that inflation, the printing of money, and the erosion of salaries are lesser evils resulting from the war.

Greater evils would have been the disorganisation of society, which the US policy of aggression was trying to provoke.

The fact that there can be and has been social peace with hyper-inflation and economic deterioration is also a victory for the revolution.

[Beretta] It must be recognised, however, that a society with such high inflation levels cannot take much more.

[Ramirez] When we were at war, we couldn't carry out an economic adjustment programme to repair the damage caused by the war.

All the country's efforts were going towards winning the war. Once we achieved this objective, we started to rebuild the country.

Now we can concentrate all efforts on solving the economic problems, and we will do it.

But we'll continue struggling on the diplomatic and political fronts too.

The fight against hyper-inflation is succeeding.

In December we had 130 per cent inflation, 90 per cent in January, 45 per cent in February, and 20 per cent in March.

To go from 130 per cent to zero inflation is impossible, instead of a 30,000 per cent annual rate we may have 600 or 800 per cent by the end of the year.

[Beretta] You said that US aggression caused the hyper-inflation. Were that not also errors in economic strategy?

[Ramirez] Economic errors and the impact of war can't be weighed on the same scale.

Of course we have made errors, but how many of these would have occurred if the country hadn't been subjected to such open aggression?

[Beretta] What can be done so that the economy can recover?

[Ramirez] The mixed economy must be made effective with the participation of private producers, the state sector, and the small and medium producers in co-operatives.

We didn't think it necessary before to get together with the private sector.

In war time the country was more polarised with many individual producers have more confidence in US President Reagan's policy than in the possibility of reaching an understanding with the revolution.

Now that the dust has settled, things can be looked at more clearly.

[Beretta] You've adopted economic measures often demanded by the International Monetary Fund. Will you ask them for credit?

[Ramirez] Credit that will restrict the freedom of that country, no. We'll never do that.

Evaluation missions come from time to time, we receive them, we talk with them, we owe them small amounts, we pay them small amounts.

[Beretta] Won't it be difficult to deal with the economic problems at the same time as holding elections?

[Ramirez] Without being boastful, we have always met challenges head on.

The 1984 elections were held at the most critical point of the war, when the entire Contra force was inside the country killing people everywhere, murdering campesinos in the co-operatives, burning farms.

What bigger challenge is there than that?

[Beretta] Some say that the FSLN divided the domestic opposition in Nicaragua. Wouldn't it be better in the elections to have one consistent and credible adversary?

[Ramirez] In the first place, we didn't have to do a thing to divide the opposition. Their problem is that they are ideologically impoverished. Their proposals don't generate a following.

The FSLN is the only political party really able to mobilise the country—the campesinos, the urban masses, the poor, and all the different sectors of society.

This never happened under the dictatorship. Political mobilisation occurred around elections but was not a constant way to seek change.

In this sense, the FSLN is a novelty as a political party.

The traditional opposition was already fragmented and pitted against itself during Somoza's time, and they didn't have a viable alternative project then either, so they couldn't overthrow him.

When the revolution triumphed in 1979 their proposals didn't change and they made the mistake of opposing the FSLN when the entire social panorama of the country had changed.

[Beretta] Doesn't it worry you that some polls say that 30 percent will vote for the FSLN when you got 67 percent of the votes in 1984?

[Ramirez] But the closest opposition party has 7 percent and most people didn't express any preference.

We will win them over. That's what the election campaign is for.

[Beretta] Do you think that the future of pluralism in Nicaragua lies more in the heterogeneity of the FSLN than in the traditional party pluralism?

[Ramirez] I think the FSLN is dynamic, very creative and dialectical in and of itself. Because of this it has been able to move forward.

We aren't stuck to following other models or experiences. Our revolution was already distinct before the experiences of perestroika in the Soviet Union.

Pluralism does not just depend on how the Sandinista Front runs itself.

If the opposition isn't capable of getting itself together and winning over sectors of society, it will be hard to get real pluralism.

The 1990 elections have to be seen by the opposition as a big opportunity to find a way to bring more people into politics and to win credibility in the country.

[Beretta] The opposition and Cardinal Obando y Bravo are unsatisfied and say that an amnesty for all prisoners is still lacking.

[Ramirez] Yes, we are always lacking! I think that we are always going to lack in handing over power to the right! There won't be peace of mind for some people until the business people have power.

In Costa Rica and other parts of Latin America there are elections, the left gets 2 or 3 percent of the vote and there is peace.

Here it's the reverse, with the right receiving 2 or 3 percent of the vote.

So here there are different rules.

The FSLN represents a force that politically challenges the old order of Latin America.

We are a revolution.

We are using methods within the pluralist gameplan, respecting democratic laws, living together peacefully and so on, but we are a revolution.

COSEP Rejects Offer To Go To Sweden for Aid
PA0505224589 Managua Radio Corporacion
in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 May 89

[Communique issued by the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP) in Managua on 3 May]

[Text] Regarding the government's proposal to form a joint government-private sector commission to go to Sweden to request economic aid on behalf of the Nicaraguan people, COSEP points out the following:

1. We do not agree to have COSEP leaders participate—on the basis of a nonexistent cooperation with the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN)—in government delegations that will request foreign aid. This is because we consider such participation untimely as long as in Nicaragua:

A. There are no full guarantees for private ownership, freedom of expression, and freedom in general.

B. There is no independent judicial branch but merely a political arm of the ruling party.

C. The government does not review and overturn decisions to confiscate private property.

D. The excessive military and bureaucratic spending is not reduced, because this spending has caused a huge deficit.

E. The measure nationalizing foreign trade is not suspended, because this measure has resulted in excessively high prices for export products and for products intended for domestic consumption.

F. The obligatory military service is not eliminated, because this is one of the causes of the exit of professionals, technicians, students, and workers, which has resulted in a reduction of the country's intellectual and labor force.

G. Private enterprise does not receive the same opportunities as state enterprises.

2. The private sector thinks it would be suitable to receive answers to the following questions:

Where are the persons who participated in the latest mission by the private sector to secure foreign economic aid?

Where are Jorge Salazar, Ismael Reyes, Frank Bendana, and Jose Francisco Cardenal?

Where are those who asked and received from the U.S. Government \$75 million in aid?

The answer to these questions is that they have either been killed by State Security or have had their properties seized and have been exiled.

3. We realize that the bankruptcy of the country and the government is a result of the government's economic and political policies and of its refusal to listen to the opinion of the country's various sectors. This disqualifies the government as capable managers of the debts that will weigh upon the shoulders of all Nicaraguans.

4. The Nicaraguan private sector appreciates the efforts of the Swedish Government and the other countries interested in giving economic aid to Nicaragua. This aid must be conditioned to the establishment of democracy. Therefore, we do not authorize the presence of private sector members in joint missions with the FSLN, which first invites us and requests our presence and then insults and threatens us in official speeches, as happened on 1 May.

Managua, 3 May 1989

Opposition Parties Send Letter to Ramirez
PA0605163589 Managua Radio Corporacion
in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 May 89

[Letter sent by political opposition parties "today" to Acting President Sergio Ramirez Mercado, read via telephone by Adolfo Jarquin, vice president of the Social Democratic Party—live or recorded]

[Text] Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado Acting president of the Republic

Dear Acting President:

On 25 April 1989, the legally established opposition political parties received an official message from the Presidency of the Republic signed by you asking us to send lists of qualified citizens to compose the slates from which members of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] will be drawn.

The membership of the CSE and the entire institutional electoral organization is a key issue within the presidential agreement signed by President Ortega on 14 February 1989 at Tesoro Beach. This is also one of the main points that the government and the opposition must negotiate to ensure compliance with Central American commitments and to guarantee free, fair, and clean elections in Nicaragua.

Electoral Law amendments promulgated on 23 April 1989 were unilaterally approved by the government, which scorned the opposition's demands and violated

the Tesoro Beach commitments calling for the establishment of a CSE with balanced representation by opposition political parties. That balanced representation by opposition parties was not guaranteed in the amendments that were approved and made public. The government not only assigned to itself three of the five magistrate seats, but legally assigned a fourth magistrate seat to a political organization which includes among its membership some individuals subordinate to the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], leaving the opposition the chance to have only one of the five magistrate seats.

A four-to-one majority assures the FSLN absolute control over the CSE and thus over all subordinate election organizations. This legitimizes an election fraud and decreases the chances of holding genuinely free and competitive elections in Nicaragua.

Furthermore, the government's haste in requesting lists of citizens from which to draw slates for the CSE deprives opposition parties currently applying for legal status of the chance to participate on an equal basis in the CSE's establishment.

We opposition political parties are willing to present lists of citizens for slates from which magistrates of the CSE could be chosen. However, prior to that, there must be an agreement between the government and the opposition to guarantee the balance mandated by the Central American presidential agreements as well as an agreement on two key legal and political aspects to ensure that a genuinely just and honest election process will be organized in Nicaragua.

Because of this, legally established parties and those applying for legal status insist on our just demand for a national dialogue with the government to negotiate and to reach agreements on the basic points of legal reform and the basic political conditions required to hold free and clean elections for Nicaraguan democratization and peace.

The ball is in the Sandinist government's court; the opposition will await a reply in order to immediately proceed to initiate a political negotiation allowing the establishment of a balanced CSE and the fulfillment of other legal and political measures mandated by international agreements and which the opposition is justly demanding.

Attentively,
Independent Liberal Party
Social Democratic Party
Nicaraguan Conservative Party, Myriam Arguello's faction
Social Christian Party
Social Christian Unity Party
Nicaraguan Socialist Party
Liberal Party, PALI
Constitutionalist Liberal Party

Communist Party of Nicaragua
Popular Social Christian Party
Central American Unionist Party
Nicaraguan Conservative Party, Silviano Matamoros' faction

Charges Against Costa Rican Envoy Decried
PA0605170089 Managua Radio Corporacion
in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 May 89

[Communique issued by the Democratic Coordinating Board, CDN, in Managua on 5 May]

[Text] The Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN], a political organization that opposes the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and that is composed of political parties, private enterprise groups, and labor union federations, hereby announces the following to the Nicaraguan people and to the international community:

In view of the recent attacks against Costa Rican Ambassador Farid Ayales and official and progovernment reports claiming that Nicaraguan opposition parties have filed complaints at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry over alleged meddling by the ambassador in Nicaragua's political affairs, the CDN hereby reports that Commander Daniel Ortega's government is clearly attempting to avoid complying with the Esquipulas II, Alajuela, and Salvadoran agreements. Ortega is attempting to justify his government's lack of political willingness to comply with these agreements by taking actions to create tension between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The true situation faced by the Nicaraguan people is therefore being covered up.

We hereby clarify to the Nicaraguan people and the international community that these actions negate the spirit of the Central American agreements signed by Ortega himself. In addition, we have found Ambassador Ayales' diplomatic behavior to be in accordance with international agreements. The CDN has nothing to object to regarding his diplomatic representation and actions. Moreover, he has not interfered in any way with our political activities.

Managua, 5 May 1989

[Signed] Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers
CUS [Confederation for Trade Union Unity]
PCN [Nicaraguan Conservative Party]
CONAPRO [National Confederation of Professional Associations]
PSD [Social Democratic Party]
COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise]
PSC [Social Christian Party]
PSN [Nicaraguan Socialist Party]
PALI [Liberal Party]

Council of Political Parties Members Named
PA0705143889 Managua Radio Sandino
in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] The Legislative Assembly has chosen the remaining members and deputy members of the Council of Political Parties, CPP, as part of the election reforms. The following people, all members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, were elected by majority vote: Onofre Guevara, full member, and Rosario Altamirano, deputy member; Angela Rosa Acevedo, full member, and Alejandro Bravo, deputy member; Scrafin Garcia, full member, and Hermogenes Rodriguez, deputy member; Dr Danilo Aguirre Solis, full member, and Dr Yadira Centeno, deputy member.

Jose Moya of the Peoples Social Christian Party, Erick Ramirez of the Social Christian Party, and Leonel Silva of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party had been elected as CPP members. The National Assembly appointed Hugo Mejia as CPP president and Carlos Cuadra of the Leninist Party as vice president. The election of the CPP secretary, which will go to a Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua [PCDN] member, was postponed until next week, when the CPP issues a ruling on a challenge regarding a list of names filed by PCDN member Dr Eduardo Molina.

Cuba Writes Off \$50-Million Loan
PA0805145089 Managua Radio Sandino
in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Foreign Cooperation Minister Henry Ruiz has reported that Cuba has written off approximately \$50 million of Nicaragua's debt with that country. Ruiz recently participated in the meeting of the Cuba-Nicaragua Mixed Commission. During this meeting, the Cuban Government said it was writing off that debt because of the Nicaraguan people's needs.

Cuba will also provide Nicaragua with approximately 90,000 tons of oil. Furthermore, Cuba will participate in several Nicaraguan educational, health, and economic programs.

The Cuban Government and people have written off \$100 million of Nicaragua's debt so far, according to Nicaraguan statistics.

Panama

Further Reportage on Election Events, Reactions

U.S. Observers Denounced
PA1005040689 Panama City LA REPUBLICA
in Spanish 9 May 89 p 4

[Mario Augusto Rodriguez column: "Diary After Elections"]

[Text]

Monday, 8 May

1. Explanation

In most cases, my commentaries are based on media reports, particularly television and newspaper reports. Because I am hard of hearing, I find most radio broadcasts bothersome. I comment very seldom on developments I have not personally experienced or witnessed. For this reason, I find that my production capacity has been severely curtailed, because I do not have the necessary raw material. No newspapers have arrived today at Pharmacy 50, where I buy them daily. I could comment on radio broadcasts, but I refuse to comment on things that pass quickly and that do not lend themselves to analysis. The television stations have not broadcast their usual newscasts, and I cannot sit forever in front of a television set to wait for bulletins that could have been aired on a prearranged schedule. I hope my readers will realize that this explanation was necessary to elucidate what follows.

2. Gringo Source

The only reports I have heard on Sunday's elections have been aired by Channel Eight, the television station operated by the U.S. military authorities stationed in the portion of Panamanian territory that is still under foreign jurisdiction. The information was supplied by a team of U.S. senators, congressmen, and officials who were sent by President Bush "to observe" our elections and to report to him their findings on the elections. Bush's delegation entered Panama through Howard Air Force Base without consular visas or official authority from the Panamanian Government. In my opinion, this means that they were foreign citizens who illegally infiltrated my country. However, they reported that they had been allowed to observe the elections in various places in our capital as well as in Colon and Penonome.

3. Partial Report

As I understand it, Mr Bush's envoys "observed" several hundred of the 3,000 or 4,000 voting tables that operated throughout the country. Therefore, the report they will present to their president will not only refer to a very small percentage of the total but will also be clearly biased. The delegation's leader had said beforehand that his government would only recognize the victory of the candidates of the alliance of businessmen and political parties, in which his government has invested a minimum of \$12 million. If the results turn out to be favorable to the candidate of national liberation, Mr Bush will consider them fraudulent. This is what the special envoys had to say.

4. Democratic Freedom

In my opinion, the presence of Mr Bush's representatives is clear and tangible evidence that they witnessed a very broad democratic freedom. This freedom was so generous that it contrasts sharply with the attitude of the U.S.

officials, who, on instructions from President Bush, prevented Panamanian legislator Tomas Altamarino Duque—who did have a previously granted visa and is a newsman, too—from entering the United States. I would not argue for a minute that the data Mr Bush's envoys will provide will be false, although it is obvious that some of the data have been distorted or misinterpreted. What I do assert, however, is that what they saw is a very small part of our reality.

Today's thought: In much the same way honest men believe the whole world is honest because they are honest, thieves judge others by their own standards—a popular expression.

'Clandestine' Broadcasts Noted

PA1005041889 Panama City *CRITICA* in Spanish
9 May 89 p 5

[From the "Scoops" column]

[Text] The Government and Justice Ministry must investigate what frequency was used yesterday by Colombia's Caracol Network to disseminate completely false information and figures on the vote count via a clandestine radio station to Panamanian and Colombian listeners.

The signal of [San Jose's] Radio Impacto was also heard. On that station, "the cobra" [reference to legislator and newswoman in exile Mayin Correa] once again showed that she is worse than a prostitute on a sleazy Miami street when she shows her true colors.

Meanwhile, several U.S. agents were seen visiting residents of a building where Nestor's Hair Salon occupies the ground floor on F Street, El Cangrejo neighborhood, the cradle of the Civic Crusade. Our question is: Do they have anything to do with clandestine stations that have been disseminating disinformation to the people on the elections and releasing altered figures?

Figures Show COLINA Lead

PA0905132489 Panama City *MATUTINO* in Spanish
9 May 89 pp 1, 7

[Report by Alberto Henriquez Garay]

[Text] Preliminary and unofficial figures released during a news conference last night indicate that as of 1100 on 8 May, 1,820 voting tables had been counted, yielding 207,171 votes for COLINA; 186,487 for ADOC; and 21,444 for the Authentic Panamenist Party.

Carlos Duque, Panama's president-elect [as published], told local and foreign newsmen that those are the true election results, and they are the reason for the opposition's desperation and the reason it is trying to defame an election process that was pure and just.

Carlos Duque urged the members of the National Vote-Counting Board, established at the Atlapa Convention Center, to accelerate the count of vote tally sheets to bring tranquility to the country.

According to Panama's future president, the figures coming from the members of the COLINA working team, who attended the preliminary vote-counting process, are the same figures ADOC and all other parties participating in the election have.

The team accompanying Carlos Duque Jaen, the new Panamanian president, was led by Vice Presidents Ramon Sieiro and Aquilino Boyd, several ministers, and COLINA's political leaders. The team displayed a victorious spirit.

A dozen journalists taking part in the news conference praised the Panamanian elections and agreed that COLINA leads ADOC, according to preliminary figures. It is important to point out that COLINA's advantage is shown after counting 43 percent of all the voting tables open on 7 May.

Duque Rejects Fraud Charge

PA0905164289 Panama City *CRITICA*
in Spanish 9 May 89 pp 1, 11

[Text] Panamanian President-elect Carlos Duque Jaen accused the United States of another interventionist act with the accusations of election fraud made yesterday by a mission sent by George Bush. Duque Jaen also gave figures that clearly give the advantage to COLINA.

Duque Jaen said: "To hold a news conference on a U.S. military base during which Bush's interventionist mission invented charges of election fraud is disrespectful and an abuse of our hospitality."

The Panamanian president said the results tallied up to 1100 yesterday from 1,810 voting tables, which represent 43 percent of the total, give 207,171 votes to COLINA, 186,487 votes to ADOC, and 21,448 votes to the Authentic Panamenist Party. COLINA leads by 20,864 votes.

"This is the truth," said Duque Jaen, "and is the real reason that Bush's and the opposition's interventionist mission have initiated a campaign of disinformation to cast doubt on Sunday's elections."

Duque Jaen urged the National Vote-Counting Board to speed up the computation of the vote tally sheets to provide the results and return peace to the country.

He said ADOC, in its desperation, is trying to foment disturbances. Regarding an incident at the ATLAPA convention center during a demonstration by the opposition, he said the authorities were forced to act to keep order.

He described as "childish crying" the charges of fraud made by the opposition and compared those efforts to a boat's wake. "Just as that disturbance disappears after the boat passes, so will the childish crying disappear," he said.

Duque Jaen announced that U.S. Congressman Connie Mack returned to the United States yesterday and announced that he will propose legislation to abolish the Torrijos-Carter Treaty.

"That is precisely what would have happened if ADOC had won the elections," he added after pointing out that part of the agreement for the \$10 million given to the opposition would be a renegotiation of the Panama Canal Treaty.

Duque Jaen, the new Panamanian president, also rejected charges made by Miami Mayor Javier Suarez, who announced an invented lead of five to one for ADOC and urged the Inter-American Human Rights Commission to issue a statement on alleged human rights violations during the exemplary Panamanian elections.

Replying to a question on U.S. military intervention, the president-elect said that everything that is happening is part of a low-intensity war that has intensified in the last few days. Duque Jaen appealed to the good sense of U.S. leaders to prevent an armed intervention against our country, which only wants respect for its right to self-determination.

Regional Observers Communique

PA0905230789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA
DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 May 89 pp A-1, A-7

["Declaration" issued by the Latin American observers of the Panamanian elections in Panama City on 8 May]

[Text] The representatives of the Latin American political parties, organizations, and institutions who were invited to observe the 7 May 1989 elections freely toured the electoral circuits, both in the city and rural areas, as well as many schools, so we are able to comment knowledgeably on the Panamanian elections process.

At the end of election day, we met to exchange experiences and reached the following conclusions:

1. The elections were marked by a massive voter turnout in a festive and orderly atmosphere that the citizens maintained in spite of the political confrontations that occurred during the campaign. The Panamanian people demonstrated admirable civic behavior.

The elections clearly went smoothly and there were sufficient numbers of forms, ballots, and other legally required documents in the places we visited, all of which

demonstrated that the elections were adequately organized, although there were some mistakes made and other difficulties that are not unusual in these events.

2. We were invariably able to observe the presence and participation of the representatives from all the parties at the voting tables, as well as the satisfactory observance of the Electoral Code, except for some expected differences in the interpretation of the code by the party representatives.

3. During our visits, no charges of fraud or serious irregularities that could modify the results of the elections were presented to us. Even the party representatives at the voting tables stressed that the voting was taking place normally.

4. However, near the voting centers, the members of the opposition parties reported several alleged irregularities that were invariably taking place "in other places," but it was not possible to prove the "charges" that soldiers had voted at several voting tables. It is important to point out that we were never given evidence to support these reports, and it was noticed that these charges were made in a similar and synchronized manner in various parts of the country.

5. Shortly after the polls were closed, we observed opposition groups displaying an attitude of open confrontation, and they began to gather near the voting centers in an obvious effort to exert pressure while the votes were being counted.

6. On the night of 7 May, some observed illegal interference on the airwaves of Radio Verbo by an unidentified force, which began transmitting electoral results that were not approved by the Electoral Tribunal, thus promoting through these subversive actions violence and confrontation within Panamanian society.

7. Throughout the process, we were able to see how the various groups of international observers could move freely throughout the various regions of the country. To this effect, we particularly want to refer to the group led by former President Carter, which had all the necessary support for carrying out its activities. The international press also had free access to information and unrestricted access to the voting places.

For the reasons mentioned above, we wish to state that, in spite of the intense campaign promoted by the U.S. Government, it has been evident that the Panamanian elections were held in a legitimate manner.

Whatever the results, it is obvious that the elections have shown the entire world that the Panamanian people have chosen legal and constitutional paths to exercise their rights and to make the necessary changes. This means that peace and dialogue, within the framework of respect for the Panamanian nation's sovereignty and self-determination, must prevail over attempts at intervention and destabilization.

Signed:

Gilberto Lopez y Rivas, Party of the Democratic Revolution, Mexico

Ruben Montedonico, Party for the People's Victory, Uruguay

Raul Rosende, Blanco Party, Uruguay

Guillermo Zavala, Socialist Party, Chile

Miguel Monserrat, national deputy, Popular Intransigent Party, Argentina

Gustavo Adolfo Aguilar, Revolutionary Liberal Democratic Movement, Honduras

Justo Echevarria, Independence Party, Puerto Rico

Gilberto Reyes, Independence Party, Puerto Rico

Aldo Diaz Lacayo, Sandinist National Liberation Front, Nicaragua

Mario Lima, federal deputy, Party of the Brazilian Democratic Movement

Brandao Monteiro, vice president, Democratic Labor Party, Brazil

Julio Halty, Broad Front, Uruguay

Javier Solis, deputy, Costa Rica

Marcial Rubio, personal representative of Alfonso Barantes, Democratic Left, Peru

Augusto Parra Garcia, president of the General Omar Torrijos Ecuadorian-Panamanian Friendship House, Ecuador

Lucrecia Lozano, Latin American Economic System, National Autonomous University of Mexico

Lilia Bermudez, CESTEM [expansion unknown] of the National Autonomous University of Mexico

Luis Jarrin Ampudia, Democratic Left, Ecuador

General Richelieu Levoyer, president, OMIDELAC [expansion unknown], Ecuador

Pompeyo Marquez, Movement to Socialism, Venezuela

Rafael Hidalgo, Center of Studies of Cuba

Asaad Shoman, SPRAR [expansion unknown], Belize

Mario Roldan, Coordinator of the Democratic Convergence of El Salvador

Jorge Illescas Oliva, National Innovation and Unity Party, Honduras

'Diplomatic Quarantine' Requested

PA0905161489 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1018 GMT 9 May 89

[By Juan Ramon Rojas]

[Text] Panama City, 9 May (EFE)—The Panamanian opposition will ask for an international diplomatic "quarantine" against the government and against Panama Defense Forces Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega. The opposition also does not rule out a general strike, "if conditions are right."

Ricardo Arias Calderon, leader of the PDC and first vice presidential candidate of the ADOC, has announced the opposition has been in contact with three Latin American presidents—whom he did not identify—from whom, he said, a statement is expected "within the next 24 hours." Arias Calderon told EFE "Panamanians abroad are working on this." He explained that the measures

taken against Noriega will be similar to the ones imposed on Nicaraguan President General Anastasio Somoza in 1979, which contributed to his fall.

Arias Calderon explained that the opposition will not ask for an "economic blockade" against Panama and said nothing can justify a U.S. military intervention. "I am convinced that a U.S. intervention will not take place," he added.

The PDC leader told EFE that if the opposition's victory is confirmed, Noriega "could stay" in Panama, because the Constitution prohibits the extradition or deportation of Panamanian citizens. Arias Calderon pointed out that there is no reason why the transition from the current Panamanian regime to another government should result in a trial of military men, as was the case in Argentina when Raul Alfonsin assumed office. Rather, he said, the opposition would follow the Uruguayan example of pardoning the military men.

Referring again to the contacts made with the three Latin American leaders, the PDC leader said their help had been requested, "and we will later ask other presidents for assistance." Arias Calderon emphasized that "everything seems to indicate" that these three countries will recognize the victory of ADOC and its presidential candidate, Guillermo Endara.

According to ADOC, Panama's Catholic Church, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and other international observers, Endara received more than 70 percent of the vote.

Arias Calderon said the opposition will avail itself of the fact that many foreign observers and journalists are here for the elections. Many observers, he added, "have seen the problem as we see it"—that is, as a conflict among Panamanians, not between the United States and Panama, as the regime has tried to make it appear at the international level.

The vice presidential candidate pointed out that the statements by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter—who described the Panamanian regime as a "military dictatorship" and said the opposition won by a "3 to 1 margin"—"are an important factor toward the recognition of our victory." Noriega "has been exposed as never before, because the dictatorship can no longer govern the country," the ADOC candidate observed.

"We are going to continue our civic struggle, we will continue our protests, and we do not rule out a general strike if conditions are right," Arias Calderon told EFE.

The PDC leader said the Catholic Church recognized ADOC's victory, calling it a good example of what is to be expected in the next few days.

The Episcopal Conference announced that according to its exit poll at 115 voting tables, the opposition won 74.2 percent of the votes, with 24.9 percent going to the pro-government National Liberation Coalition and its candidate, Carlos Duque. Like Endara, Duque has proclaimed himself the winner of Sunday's elections, but 36 hours after the polls closed, no official result has been announced.

Vote Count Released

PA0905143589 San Jose Radio Impacto
in Spanish 1340 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] This is the latest computation on the Panamanian elections done by Radio Impacto's Data Processing Department. Results by ticket are:

Presidential Votes		
ADOC	174,540	67.9percent
COLINA	59,729	23.2percent
Authentic Panamenist Party	850	0.3percent
Null or blank votes	21,849	8.5percent
Total	256,968	
Results by party:		
Christian Democratic Party	94,794	36.9percent
Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement	51,513	20.0percent
Authentic Liberal Party	28,233	11.0percent
Total ADOC	174,540	67.9percent
Democratic Revolutionary Party	38,233	14.9percent
Labor Party	12,357	4.8percent
Others	9,139	3.6percent
Total COLINA	59,729	23.2percent

Soldiers at Vote Center

PA0905164789 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1621 GMT 9 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 9 May (EFE)—Approximately 200 heavily armed FDP soldiers supported by an armored vehicle took positions this morning across from the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City, where the National Vote-Counting Board is operating.

Some of the Battalion 2000 soldiers, who arrived in six trucks, have entered the Atlapa Convention Center.

FDP officers have not explained the arrival of troops at the building.

The troops arrived a little while after the National Vote-Counting Board released the first official election results, which cover approximately 5 percent of the votes cast. [passage omitted]

Ritter on U.S. Position

PA0905202389 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1703 GMT 9 May 89

[Report on statements by Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter during a news conference at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City on 8 May—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Dr Jorge Ritter has vigorously condemned, on behalf of the government, the use of Television Channel 8, which is at the disposal of the U.S. Southern Command, for illegal broadcasts on the Panamanian electoral process. The foreign minister made his statements at a news conference yesterday at the Atlapa Convention Center, where the minister said:

[Ritter, in progress] "...I do wish to state for the record the Panamanian Government's rejection of the illegal use of this station by U.S. officials and U.S. congressmen, who have been speaking in Spanish, giving figures, and conveying impressions that do not reflect this country's reality. "We condemned this campaign when we condemned the use of the \$10 million [reportedly given by the U.S. Government to the opposition]. We said those \$10 million would be used two ways: for political campaigning and for destabilization. Obviously, the political campaign has ended. Now we have entered the phase of destabilization, although that was also a part of the first phase.

"I believe that all of you who are here in this country must share the country's humiliation at seeing a foreign media carry out incitement of this kind and broadcast this kind of quote, news, unquote, which can only create a climate that is not the climate that was observed...[recording ends in progress]"

Regarding the illegal presence of the Southern Command in our country, the foreign minister said:

[Ritter] "There are no provisions in the Panama Canal Treaties that authorize the presence of the Southern Command in our country. The Panama Canal Treaties provide solely for military bases for the purpose of defending the Panama Canal. The defense sites at which those forces should be stationed are expressly indicated in the treaties. In effect, there is no provision for the presence of the Southern Command on Panamanian territory.

"We went to the United Nations to condemn what we consider an unacceptable interference in our domestic affairs that could endanger the international peace and security that the Security Council should protect. We made the charge, which was never answered by the U.S. representative, that there was an excessive U.S. military presence in Panama, that there was harassment by the U.S. military, and that a climate was being created to

favor a U.S. military intervention in our country. Apart from this, there was what we considered an unacceptable interference: the financing of political campaigns in our country."

"On that occasion, Panama only presented its complaints. It did not ask friendly countries to intervene. We did not even ask for a resolution from the Security Council. Technically, however, the topic remains open at the Security Council. As the council's president said at the close of that meeting, the Security Council could meet again at any time to discuss a topic that is already on its agenda—namely, the U.S. interference in Panama.

"What we have now is a greater and more exaggerated presence, to put it that way, of the United States in Panama, and an unnecessary deployment of forces in places other than the defense sites established in the Panama Canal Treaties.

"People who came to a political rally on Thursday could see the presence of many U.S. military troops outside the defense sites. They saw planes flying over the motorcade, at very low altitude, openly violating our airspace, with no authorization for such overflights.

"Therefore, only a few days after Panama made its complaint to the UN Security Council, that military presence only increased, which perfectly corroborated the charge that Panama had made. These incidents are new, but the most novel, if we can use that word, is the increasingly frequent use of the threat of an intervention in Panama. In the past, even if there had been thought of using intervention—which is so unpalatable to Latin American countries—there had been some discretion and some concern for appearances. But now, with increasingly less concern for appearances, there has been mention of a military intervention as one of many options. This was what we reported, and the actions of the U.S. authorities have corroborated this in practice. But now another step has been taken, which is to have them outside the defense sites.

"Many of the people who came to Panama for these elections entered through the military bases for purposes other than those authorized. The bases can be used for the transportation of material and personnel destined for those military bases. Those people entered the country without visas and without the knowledge of the Panamanian authorities. That is an arbitrary, illegal use of the military bases in Panama. One of the causes of our conflict is that Panama has never agreed to the use of the military bases, particularly air bases, for purposes other than those established in the Panama Canal Treaties."

Meeting To Study Situation

PA0905190589 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1839 GMT 9 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 9 May (EFE)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the FDP, is meeting

today with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and with the FDP General Staff to study the situation after the elections, sources close to the regime have reported.

The meeting, about which there had been no prior announcement, is being held behind closed doors at the Presidential Palace of the Herons.

This is the first meeting of the country's leadership since the elections. It is taking place amid a tense calm after a day of violent confrontations between paramilitary forces and opposition supporters that left at least eight people wounded. [passage omitted]

Soldiers Deployed in Capital

PA0905193989 Paris AFP in Spanish
1911 GMT 9 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 9 May (AFP)—Approximately 100 soldiers of the elite Battalion 2000, heavily armed and with their faces painted green, were deployed today along a 4-km section of 50th Street in downtown Panama City. In the meantime, uncertainty continues to mount after the 7 May elections.

Four trucks carrying 60 antiriot policemen known as Centurions also were sent to the same area this afternoon. That area was the scene of violent disturbances yesterday after the opposition held a march to proclaim "its election victory."

Armed Battalion 2000 troops and two armored vehicles were also observed near the Mansion Dante store on 50th Street. [passage omitted]

Spain's Gonzalez 'Concerned'

PA0905210889 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2028 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 9 May (EFE)—Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez is closely following with "concern" the development of the Panamanian crisis following Sunday's elections, diplomatic sources announced today in Panama.

During a telephone conversation yesterday with Tomas Lozano, Spanish ambassador to Panama, Gonzalez expressed personal interest in the situation and his "strongest concern" with the reports he has received on the incidents following official announcements of the government party's victory.

Panama was the scene of violent clashes between opposition members—who called the elections fraudulent—and paramilitary groups, during which at least four people were wounded.

Following these incidents, the opposition requested a meeting with the diplomatic corps to ask for international isolation of the regime and "a quarantine" against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces and Panamanian "strongman."

The Spanish ambassador has held several meetings over the past few hours with EEC representatives in Panama to assess the situation.

After speaking with Gonzalez, Lozano met with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who is in Panama as an observer. The meeting took place a few minutes after Carter denounced the Electoral Tribunal for using "phony tally sheets" and said that "the military dictatorship is not allowing the true results to be made known."

Until now Spain has maintained a position of active cooperation with the Panamanian regime. This position has been maintained since the days when General Omar Torrijos, who was a very close friend of Gonzalez', was Panama's "strongman."

Spain has continued this cooperation during the past 2 years, despite the Panamanian crisis. This position has drawn criticism from the U.S. Government, which is opposed to recognition of the Panamanian regime.

However, the widespread charges of election fraud coming from many observers—including Spanish deputies of various political leanings—could result in a reversal of Spain's policy toward Panama, according to what sources from the ruling Spanish Socialist Workers' Party [PSOE] have said.

A PSOE spokesman said that his party is studying the possibility of excluding the most important party of the government coalition—the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD]—from Socialist International, where the PRD is an observer.

Press Center Partial Results

PA0905223089 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 2112 GMT 9 May 89

["Press bulletin" issued by the Electoral Press Center on "partial results" of general elections in Panama City—read by Boris Moreno, director of the Electoral Press Center]

[Text] [Announcer] The Electoral Press Center will now present results of the general elections held on 7 May throughout the national territory, based on the data contained in the vote tally sheets of the various electoral circuits.

Dear television viewers and radio listeners, we now present Boris Moreno, director of the Electoral Press Center, to give you the reports:

[Moreno] We have received from the National Vote-counting Board the official figures for the new electoral circuits tallied today. The circuits are located in the provinces of Bocas del Toro, Cocle, and Los Santos. They are circuits 1-1 in Bocas del Toro, circuit 2-4 in Cocle, and circuit 7-3 in Los Santos. We will now read the report on the balloting in circuit 1-1 of Changuinola, Bocas del Toro Province:

ADOC, 7,107 votes distributed as follows:

Authentic Liberal Party [PLA]	2,785
Christian Democratic Party [PDC]	2,688
Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [Molirena]	1,634
COLINA, 4,641 votes distributed as follows:	
Liberal Party [PL]	244
Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD]	2,872
Labor Party [PALA]	335
Republican Party [PR]	899
Revolutionary Panamenist Party [PPR]	18
Democratic Workers Party [PDT]	17
People's Party [PdP]	43
National Action Party [PAN]	213

The Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] garnered 137 votes in this circuit.

This is the official result of votes counted in circuit 1-1 of Bocas del Toro, where 13,743 votes were cast. Of these, 8,885 were valid and 1,858 were declared null. A total of 76 vote tally sheets were counted.

In Cocle Province, the results for circuit 2-4, comprising Aguadulce, were as follows:

ADOC, 1,789 votes. When added to circuit 2-1, which was tallied last night, its total is 7,219 votes.

COLINA, 8,445 in circuit 2-4. When added to circuit 2-1, where the results were 6,073 votes, the total is 14,520 votes [figures as heard].

PPA, 16 votes. When added to 35 votes garnered in circuit 2-1, its total is 51 votes.

In circuit 2-4, Aguadulce, Cocle Province, a total of 11,309 votes were cast. Of these, 10,236 votes were valid and 1,073 were null. A total of 53 vote tally sheets were counted.

The following is the result of the balloting in circuit 7-3, Los Santos Province, which includes Macaracas, Tonosi, and Pedasi:

ADOC, 1,486 votes, distributed as follows:

PDC	673
PLA	0
MOLIRENA	813
COLINA, 6,482 votes distributed as follows:	
PL	225
PRD	5,026
PALA	897

PR	219
PAN	58
PDT	0
PdP	57
PPR	0
PPA	39

A total of 11,362 votes were cast here, and 11,347 of these were valid. Only 15 votes were voided. This is the result of 79 tally sheets.

So far, the partial total of votes is:

ADOC:	26,878
COLINA:	51,752
PPA:	2,232

These are the official results of the votes from provincial electoral circuits counted thus far by the Panamanian National Vote-Counting Board.

Colombian Newsmen Beaten

PA0905234289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish
2151 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Bogota, 9 May (DPA)—Three special correspondents of the [Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1] "TV-Hoy" news program who were sent to Panama to cover the elections were beaten with sticks by persons dressed in civilian clothing, spokesmen for the television news program reported today in Bogota.

According to reports, the incident took place yesterday afternoon when journalist Edgar Tellez, cameraman Jairo Rincon, and his assistant, Walter Vogel, left the media center in Panama City. Roberto Pombo, director of the Colombian television news program, has reported that when the newsmen reached the street, demonstrators—apparently followers of the government's presidential candidate, Carlos Duque—headed for the Colombians and beat them while several Panama Defense Forces units watched.

Tellez, who was able to escape, was not beaten seriously, but Rincon was beaten severely in the face and on the back. According to Pombo, the correspondents will return to Colombia immediately since their equipment was destroyed and they cannot continue their work.

Yesterday, as the international media has reported, another Colombian newsman, Francisco Santos Calderon, who is deputy chief editor of Bogota's morning newspaper EL TIEMPO, was slightly wounded by armed civilians who fired into the crowd.

Paramilitary Surround Hotel

PA0905222289 San Jose Radio Impacto
in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Paramilitary forces have begun surrounding the block where the Hotel Ejecutivo is located. Most of the opposition leaders are at the hotel, and rumor has it that Guillermo Endara, the president elected by the people, is among them.

Radio Impacto's correspondent in Panama reports that earlier today armed civilians stood at the hotel entrance. When they left, another car arrived with civilians who, presumably, are paramilitary forces working for dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime. Some of these paramilitary forces are standing in front of the hotel and others are circling the hotel in vehicles.

People at the hotel are very alarmed because they fear a search. The opposition candidates were about to leave for a meeting with the Apostolic Nuncio to plan a meeting with the entire diplomatic corps accredited in Panama.

This is the current situation at the Hotel Ejecutivo.

FDP Detains ADOC Candidates

PA0905232689 San Jose Radio Impacto
in Spanish 2310 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Rita de Conte, wife of businessman Alberto Conte, reports that the three ADOC candidates have visited the Nunciature, where they spoke with the nuncio and the diplomatic corps. They left the Nunciature and went to Msgr McGrath's home in Belen street. Mrs Conte reports that just when she approached, she saw them enter the house; she decided to wait outside for news from them when two police vans full of Doberman troops arrived and fired into the air and then at a person, whom they wounded.

They have detained the candidates, who are still inside Msgr McGrath's home. It seems as if the police are also clearing out Hotel Ejecutivo. The city is militarized; there are police vans loaded with Doberman forces all over the city, wherever people are gathered. It is urgent to inform the entire world of what is happening now.

'Normal Activity' Reported 9 May

PA1005010489 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 May 89

["Press Bulletin" issued by the Electoral Press Center at the Atlapa Convention Center on 9 May]

[Text] Some 48 hours after the general elections were held on Sunday, 7 May, the situation in the country is normal today.

During a tour of the capital city this afternoon, one could observe normal activity, as is the case in other regions of the country.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Absolute calm and tranquillity prevailed in the capital of Panama and in outlying areas today when public and private offices resumed their normal daily activities following the national elections held on Sunday, 7 May. The principal business activities and food deliveries to the downtown area of the capital and to the public markets were being carried on as usual. Housewives bought their food for the day. The dry food distributors, fish and beef vendors, as well as those selling basic grains and other foodstuffs opened for business as usual to receive their customers.

In the populous Santa Ana neighborhood, the stores, businesses, and health centers were open for business and receiving customers, as was Santa Ana Park, which has been the faithful witness of the patriotic struggles of the Panamanian people. Commercial activities on Central Avenue were normal. All businesses opened their doors as usual to receive the public. Similar commercial activities were observed in Calidonia, which also has a large number of clothing stores, supermarkets, private clinics, banks, shops, and restaurants. The banking area along 50th Street, which is an area of heavy commercial activity, also reflected a climate of relative calm. There was a constant flow of traffic in the area. This is further proof that the country is experiencing total normalcy thus far.

Meanwhile, air transportation was proceeding normally today at the principal air terminals of the capital. Flights from different parts of the country arrived as usual, as was the case at the Marcos Gelabert Airport of Paitilla. At this air terminal, both passenger and cargo transportation proceeded without any problems or delays. The Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport also operated normally. The various international airlines received the normal flow of arriving and departing passengers, tourists, businessmen, and passengers en route to other countries. Both local and international newsmen have confirmed that there has been a free and normal flow of passengers at our main air terminals, which also reflects the working spirit of the Panamanians, as well as their sense of civic responsibility.

Following the elections, the Panamanian people have resumed their normal activities throughout national territory, as is shown in different parts of the capital. A climate of total calm and tranquillity is observed in the metropolitan area, where citizens of all social classes are pursuing their usual activities. They are paying their light, water, telephone, and other bills for basic necessities. On Via Porras, everything is normal. Panamanians are making their purchases in the supermarkets and trying their luck buying lottery tickets. The flow of traffic is normal on Via Espana and Vista Hermosa. The number of buses on this major avenue of the city is normal. On the Transisthmian Highway, at the entrance

of San Miguelito, one can see the persons waiting for their respective buses at the bus stops to go to the outskirts of the capital. [end recording] Meanwhile, here at the Atlapa National Convention Center, the National Vote-Counting Board has continued to carry out its important work, offering the citizens the partial returns of the general elections, which will culminate with the proclamation of the citizens who will rule the country's destiny for the term beginning on 1 September 1989 to 31 August 1994.

ADOC on Doberman Actions

PA1005005989 San Jose Radio Impacto
in Spanish 2335 GMT 9 May 89

[Report on interview with Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, ADOC first and second vice presidential candidates, respectively, and ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo Endara on 9 May; place not given]

[Text] Radio Impacto listeners, from Panama we report to you that the ADOC held a meeting at the Nunciature with the diplomatic corps accredited to Panama. At this meeting, or rather while the ADOC presidential candidates were at the meeting, an FDP patrol from the so-called Doberman troops arrived at the site of the meeting, and a group of armed civilians fired their weapons. No one was wounded. We interviewed the ADOC candidates about this situation. We will listen first to Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon [ADOC first vice presidential candidate], who will give us details on the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Arias Calderon] The apostolic nuncio led the meeting with the diplomatic corps, the Group of Eight... [corrects himself] the Group of Seven envoys, and the EC representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the serious situation right now, because the regime is trying to deprive the Panamanian people of the overwhelming victory the people gave to us at Sunday's elections. We called this meeting because of our desire to have Latin American and European countries play their role by showing solidarity with the Panamanian people's struggle and by helping to find a peaceful solution that respects the Panamanian people's will.

We talked to the diplomats about the proposal made by [Peruvian President] Alan Garcia, who proposed that the Group of Eight and then the OAS take specific measures to ensure the recognition of the Panamanian people's right to express their will at the [words indistinct].

[Reporter] What was [words indistinct] response to ADOC's proposal?

[Arias Calderon] They asked many questions. In addition to helping us find a solution, I believe that through their questions, we were able to discern their attitude, which is very positive.

[Reporter] Your goal is to have the diplomatic corps and the Group of Eight repudiate the government's official results?

[Arias Calderon] No, our goal is to create a climate where the true results of the elections—a 3 to 1 triumph in our favor—can be recognized.

[Reporter] Dr Arias Calderon, when will you get a specific response from the Group of Eight?

[Arias Calderon] I believe that normally they have to consult their governments. We hope that they will do so quickly so that the answer will come soon. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Guillermo Ford] A group of Doberman arrived unexpectedly. [crowd applauds] The Doberman surrounded Msgr McGrath's residence. Then a group of nervous young people began to run away, because they fear the FDP troops; there was some shooting. Some men dressed in civilian clothes arrived with machineguns, and the incident ended there.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] wounded?

[Ford] No, absolutely no one was wounded. [end recording]

You have just heard Guillermo Ford, ADOC second vice presidential candidate. He has told us about the incident that took place at Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath's residence, when a meeting with the diplomatic corps accredited to Panama was taking place there. The incident took place when an FDP Doberman unit and a group of armed civilians went to the area and fired some shots. No one was injured, but this is an event without precedent.

Followers of the Panamanian regime controlled by the dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega are now either attacking or trying to carry out direct attacks against the Panamanian opposition's presidential slate. Now let us hear ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo Endara comment on this incident:

[Begin recording] [Endara] I believe that they are trying to intimidate us. They are not going to succeed.

[Reporter] What about the election results being announced by the National Vote-Counting Board?

[Endara] Those results are fictitious. They sound like something out of a science fiction story. It is incredible. [words indistinct] in those people's dreams. [end recording]

This was Guillermo Endara, who said that the National Vote-Counting Board—which evidently is also under Noriega's control—has been announcing results, according to which the progovernment COLINA has a huge

advantage over ADOC. This is illogical because, according to international observers, the Catholic Church, the Panamanian Human Rights Commission, and all the people present at the voting tables, ADOC has a big advantage over COLINA.

ADOC Announces Measures

PA0905193189 San Jose Radio Impacto
in Spanish 1755 GMT 9 May 89

[Report on news conference held by Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance candidates "minutes ago" by unidentified reporter—place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The ADOC ticket headed by Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford minutes ago held a news conference to report on the latest developments. Dr Arias commented on the steps the opposition will adopt in the face of this new attempt at fraud by the Noriega regime:

[Begin Arias recording] This new attempt will fail as resoundingly as previous attempts, because people at home as well as abroad are aware of the scandal the regime has provoked. As part of our struggle to defend our votes and in view of this new attempt, we will adopt two specific measures:

First, through the Apostolic Nuncio, in his capacity as dean of the diplomatic corps, we will request a meeting with the diplomatic corps accredited in Panama, because we are already the president - and vice presidents - elect of the Republic and thus wish to meet with the diplomatic corps to brief them on the situation and outlook of the new government.

Second, in acknowledgment of our victory, the National Civic Crusade is urging all its member organizations, civic and business groups alike, to follow the example of the Catholic Church and publicly acknowledge ADOC's victory. Thus, we want the entire country, through its religious, social, labor, and civic authorities, to recognize our victory. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Meanwhile, ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo Endara vigorously protested the house arrest imposed on Arnulfo Escalona Rios, president of the Liberal Authentic Party. Escalona's residence is surrounded by Panama Defense Forces members, and his telephone has been disconnected. Escalona's present status is unknown.

Solis Palma on U.S. Military

PA1005013789 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Canal 8 in Spanish 0020 GMT 10 May 89

["Exclusive" statements to "La Noticia" newscast by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Solis, in progress] ...especially since the United States has been mobilizing troops. It has been preparing U.S. and international public opinion for the election

results, saying that they will not allow the current government to remain in power with Carlos Duque [National Liberation Coalition presidential candidate] and the others on that presidential ballot. We are prepared for this [U.S. military intervention]—both the Panama Defense Forces as well as the Dignity Battalions and other sectors of the Panamanian public. We know they have superior military forces, but we also have the means to confront a situation of this nature. It would be regrettable if this

Opposition Calls Protest

PA1005020389 San Jose Radio Impacto
in Spanish 0130 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] It has been reported that the opposition's three-man presidential slate—Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford—is calling on the population to start banging pots and pans beginning at 2100 tonight until the Manuel Antonio Noriega dictatorship acknowledges the victory of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance.

AFP Accused of 'Disinformation'

PA1005030089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0227 GMT
10 May 89

[Text] Panama, 10 May (AFP)—The Panamanian Government today accused AFP of "disinformation" in its coverage of Sunday's elections. Speaking on behalf of the Panamanian Government, Luis Romero Villalobos, director of the Government and Justice Ministry's Media Directorate, said that AFP had released "disinformation" on the 7 May presidential elections, which "is prohibited by Panamanian law."

The Government and Justice Ministry denied visa extensions to two Costa Rican AFP special correspondents. Other special correspondents were also denied visa extensions without explanation. Among them are Ruben del Castillo and Mike Drudge of Voice of America, and Jose Melendez of Mexico's EXCELSIOR newspaper. The Panamanian visas issued to reporters expire on Wednesday, 10 May.

Candidates Arrested, Missing

PA1005032889 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0238 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 9 May (EFE)—The Panamanian opposition today reported in a communique that two of its regional candidates have been arrested and one is missing. It also warned that the progovernment candidate is about to be declared the winner of the elections.

According to the ADOC communique, those arrested are Arnulfo Escalona and Luis Moreno, candidates for Legislative Assembly seats for Chitre and Tocumen, respectively.

The ADOC bulletin indicates that Mario Boyd, legislative candidate for Anton, has disappeared.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party and one of the vice presidential candidates on the opposition ticket, confirmed the arrests to EFE. He added that "more people are missing."

Thus far, none of these reports has been confirmed by official sources. The ADOC feels the arrests are part of a government operation to control the situation before Carlos Duque, presidential candidate of the (progovernment) National Liberation Coalition, is declared the winner of the elections.

'U.S. Meddling Unbearable'

PA1005051089 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 0245 GMT 10 May 89

["In-Depth" Commentary]

[Text] The U.S. meddling in Panama is becoming more and more incredible and unbearable. Not satisfied with having intervened directly in the election campaign that ended recently, the most retrograde sectors in Washington are now trying to distort the nature and results of these democratic elections.

In addition to having taken part directly in the elections through the substantial financial support it gave to the local opposition, the United States is trying to convince the world that the election results were favorable to the candidates they backed, or otherwise the elections were fraudulent.

As Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter has emphatically charged, on this occasion the United States has brazenly violated the current Torrijos-Carter treaties by meddling in matters that are the exclusive province of Panamanians. Ritter's accusation confirms facts that were disclosed by our national authorities before the elections. These facts proved that the United States planned to demonstrate to the international public that the government had rigged Sunday's elections. Although these machinations were revealed during their most outrageous stages through the arrest of U.S. agent [Frederick] Muse, others that are no less twisted have been launched now that the results of the vote tally are turning out to be favorable to the ticket headed by Carlos Duque Jaen, leader of COLINA's [National Liberation Coalition] nationalist forces.

The jamming of Panamanian radio broadcasts with sophisticated communications equipment of the U.S. Southern Command stationed on the Panama Canal's banks, and the use of that command's television station to release election figures that are favorable to ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] represent actions that violate international law and relations among states.

This kind of behavior can only be a result of the desire to incite violence and unrest in our country to create conditions that will allow Washington to justify an armed intervention in Panama before the world's eyes under the pretext that the canal's defense and security must be ensured.

Former President Jimmy Carter has lent himself to this comedy. Abusing the friendship and fraternity shown to him by the Panamanian people, he turned against them when he assumed an attitude which may, ironically, turn out—in the end—to be harmful to the very treaties he himself signed with General Torrijos in 1977. One gets the impression that Mr Carter is now trying to seek forgiveness from the most ultraconservative U.S. sectors, for whom he represents one of the most decisive factors in Panama's efforts to recover full sovereignty over the canal zone.

However, despite all efforts by the United States and the local opposition to deride the elections held in our country over the weekend, the will expressed by our

people to back the presidential ticket headed by Carlos Duque Jaen is gradually shining through. Against this sovereign and majority decision, there is nothing the U.S. might or money can do.

\$15-Million Agricultural Credit Received

PA0505211189 Panama City *MEDIODIA*
in Spanish 3 May 89 p 6

[Text] Rafael Arosemena, Panama National Bank general manager, has reported that Panama has received a \$15-million credit to import agricultural supplies.

The credit was granted by Brazilian and Argentine companies that will be importing the agricultural supplies, which will be handled by the Agricultural Development Bank [BDA].

Rafael Arosemena indicated that the agricultural sector as a whole, which is helped by the BDA, will benefit from this new economic boost. He added that in this operation, the Panama National Bank will support the BDA.

Argentina

Alfonsin Meets Bolivian Planning Minister
PY0505180289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1619 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 May (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin today met with Bolivia Planning Minister Fernando Romero. During the meeting, which was held at the Olivos residence, Alfonsin and Romero discussed issues pertaining to bilateral relations, particularly regarding economic relations.

After the meeting, Romero expressed his "pleasure over President Alfonsin's personal involvement in the solution to the issues dealing with Argentine-Bolivian relations."

Romero, who is visiting Argentina, expressed his personal recognition, and that of the Bolivian Government, "for the important results President Alfonsin has achieved for the consolidation of democracy in Latin America."

Alfonsin Congratulates Paraguay's Rodriguez
PY0505032289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] President Raul Alfonsin has sent a message to Paraguayan President-elect General Andres Rodriguez, congratulating him on his victory.

In the note, Alfonsin states that the friendly Paraguayan people have taken a great step toward the consolidation of the democratic opening process which they have begun. This renews our confidence in the consolidation of our traditional ties of friendship and cooperation.

Ministry Issues Communique on Dollar Rate
PY0805181089 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 May 89

[Relay by Roberto Gandini from the Economy Ministry]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The journalists accredited to the Economy Ministry have conveyed, through the press official, their concern to Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese about the rumors which have circulated over the past few hours and which have caused a stampede on the dollar exchange rate.

Through a communique read by press official (Federico Verdura), the Economy Ministry stated that it will try to identify the origin of these rumors, which are acts of economic terrorism.

[Begin (Verdura) recording] The exchange market has been affected by absurd rumors ranging from reports on military concern to the adoption of measures which this ministry is not planning to take.

These rumors tend to create an atmosphere that jeopardizes the peaceful transition, which seeks to consolidate the democratic process.

These rumors affect the people by artificially increasing the U.S. dollar rate. This increase is absolutely unjustified.

This ministry will try to identify the origin of these acts of economic terrorism. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rate Up 21 Percent

PY0805155689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 1434 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 May (NA)—At noon today there was a sharp increase—21.43 percent—in the U.S. dollar exchange rate on the free market: The buying rate climbed to 100 australs per dollar and the selling rate climbed to 102 australs per dollar.

The rates in the exchange houses were similar: The buying rate stood at 98 australs and the selling rate at 103 australs, which represents a 21.18 percent increase.

Menem Discusses Falklands Issue, Elections
PY0905121689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 2330 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Cordoba, 8 May (NA)—Justicialist Party presidential candidate Carlos Menem has said that if he is elected president of the Republic he "will not have any problems" establishing talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher over the Malvinas Islands, "as long as the sovereignty subject is discussed."

He also said that "the Radical Civic Union [UCR] party is no guarantee for the consolidation of democracy."

During an interview with the British Broadcasting Company [BBC] of London, Menem said that the United Nations is the natural place for all countries represented by their governors to meet. He said that he would have no problem talking to Mrs Thatcher, providing the talks included the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands. [quotation marks as received]

When asked if he thinks that "democracy will be at stake next Sunday" during the presidential elections, the La Rioja governor said that the democratic system "will be consolidated if the FREJUPO [Justicialist Popular Unity Front] wins the elections, but it will be in danger if the UCR wins." "We will continue to work for democracy, but the UCR is no guarantee," he added.

Menem said that "a total disaster could take place" if the UCR won the elections "because we are living in an absolute crisis and then this unrecoverable Argentina would again witness total impunity given the dirty negotiations that were made recently."

Menem said that "the triumph of the UCR would represent the continuation of a decadent Argentina and the impunity of those who stole immense amounts of money from the country."

When the BBC journalist asked about the possibility of decreeing an amnesty to the military men who violated human rights, Menem said that he does not favor either an amnesty or a pardon "or anything of the sort."

Regarding the military rebellions that have taken place in the country over the past 2 years, Menem said that "they were the result" of the central government's "lack of military policy."

Menem said that he intends "to place the Armed Forces within a concept of National Defense. They must be totally professional and they must have a work program and contingency plans in case of conflict."

Menem reiterated to the BBC that "the Armed Forces are currently [word indistinct], disjointed, and in a total state of deliberation. We, from the government, will reverse that situation. We will strengthen their structure to consolidate democracy."

Menem rejected the possibility of the people taking to the streets if he lost the elections on 14 May.

He said that the Justicialist Party has three proposals for the foreign debt problem: "a period of grace, to postpone payment, or to declare a negotiated moratorium." He then added: "We must honor our international commitments."

When Menem was asked why the Malvinas issue was one of the main points of his campaign he answered: "We want to pay homage to those who died in our territory in the South Atlantic, and we will continue claiming our islands in all international forums."

"We do not favor armed confrontations, and I do not know how many years and how many generations will go by, but the Malvinas will become part of Argentine territory again," he said.

Comments on Death Threats

PY0805164889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 2040 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] Parana, 7 May (NA)—Justicialist candidate Carlos Menem today said that during the last few days he has received several death threats, but he ruled out any possibility of adopting additional security measures at his public appearances.

Menem said provincial police officials have asked him to take as many precautions as possible during his rallies and motorcades. He said that he refused to wear a bulletproof vest during his recent visit to Bahia Blanca.

Menem minimized the issue by saying: "It is not worth continuing to talk about this." He added: "Politicians are not killed by bullets, but by fate."

Menem made these remarks in a news conference he held at the Mayorazgo Hotel, in the city of Parana, to many local and foreign newsmen.

Asked about his rival Alvaro Alsogaray's opinion that new military uprisings could take place during the transition period, Menem said he knew nothing about this and declined to comment on it.

Regarding possible steps to expedite trials of military officers, Menem said these cases are exclusively in the hands of the courts. He added: "The executive branch cannot interfere in this matter."

He admitted the possibility of a plebiscite "similar to that held in Uruguay," but he made it clear that this was just one among several alternatives, and that he was not making a proposal. He also criticized Radical Civic Union candidate Eduardo Angeloz for being "short-sighted and for misquoting everything I said regarding this subject."

Menem said: "I am annoyed when the people are disinformed in this way, especially by someone who should be serious and responsible, but who takes a stand only to charge me with saying things I never said."

Commenting on the transition period, Menem said that if he wins on 14 May "my victory will not empower me to ask the government to take measures" to fight the socioeconomic crisis. He reiterated his proposal for "a social pact," but he noted that "the outgoing government will be managing the economic and political issues until 10 December."

Candidate Warns of Possible 'Military Uprisings'
PY0805133689 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD
in English 7 May 89 p 15

[Text] Centrist Alliance presidential candidate Alvaro Alsogaray in Corrientes yesterday warned here that there could be military uprisings between the May 14 elections and the inauguration of a new President on December 10. On Friday, in Rosario, Alsogaray called on both Radicals and Peronists to support a political pact between the government, Congress and the three main parties to face the transition period, "which will inevitably be traumatic." Alsogaray pointed out that the two main issues to be resolved before the transfer of power on December 10 are the economic crisis and the military question. In turn, centrist deputy Hector Siracusano presented a draft law to cancel the transfer of the capital to Viedma.

Communique Issued on Election Security
PY1005033289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 0013 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires 9 May (NA)—General Martin Antonio Balza, the commander of public order on election day, has said the Armed Forces, police, and security personnel under his command on 14 May "will be at the service of the citizens for the purpose of helping and facilitating the elections." This statement is contained in the following communique released today and signed by Gen Balza:

"In order to facilitate the normal development of the election on 14 May, the commander of public order on election day reminds the population that the following regulations are in force:

"1. During the elections, and specifically in the voting station, there is no other authority than the president of the balloting table.

"In case the balloting table president does not follow the principles of impartiality established by the law, people must seek the nearest electoral court authority.

"2. Article No 71 of the national electoral code forbids any kind of meeting of voters, stockpiling of weapons, handing out of voting tickets, or opening of political party offices within 80 meters of a voting station.

"Based on this article, the carrying of weapons or party banners or posters is prohibited from 2000 13 May to 2100 on 14 May.

"The same article also prohibits from 0800 to 2100 on 14 May the sale of alcoholic beverages; the exhibition of popular shows, whether in a closed theater or in the open; or any kind of public meeting not connected with the elections.

"3. Any violation of these regulations must be reported by the citizens to the nearest police authority.

"4. In order to prevent the formation of large crowds that could violate the regulations, we recommend that voters find out beforehand where they are supposed to vote.

"5. Finally, this command informs the public that the Armed Forces, police, and security personnel subject to this command are at the service of the citizens for the purpose of helping and facilitating the elections. [no close quote as received]

70,000 Troops To Control Elections
PY0805180289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] General (Martin Balza), who heads the General Electoral Command, this morning announced that 70,000 Armed Forces and security troops will control the elections as of 0700 next Sunday. The forces will also be in charge of transporting and protecting the ballot boxes until the final count is completed. At the Libertador Building, Gen (Balza) gave details of the operation, which will cost approximately 89 million australs. He explained that troop movements will begin on 12 May and that the General Electoral Command will be installed on that day at Army headquarters.

Ex-Military Junta Member Released From Prison
PY0805231889 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
1634 GMT 8 May 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 8 May (DYN)—Orlando Ramon Agosti, former commander in chief of the Air Force, was released from prison today in accordance with a decision handed down by the Federal Appeals Court. Agosti is the first member of the first military junta of the last military government to obtain his freedom.

The court's decision was handed down in the trial in which Agosti was accused of participating in the overthrow of Maria Estela Martinez Peron's government on 24 March 1976, and after he completed the sentence that was handed down against him in the trial in which he was accused of human rights violations during the antisubversive struggle. Agosti was taken from Moreno Air Force Base, where he is undergoing medical treatment, to the Federal Appeals Court to hear the court's decision regarding his release.

In its decision the court took into account the time he has been in prison and the evidence that Agosti "will not try to evade future decisions of the courts."

The court also recalled that the trial in which Agosti is accused of rebellion has been going on for 5 years, and that this delay has not been "at the initiative of the plaintiff or his lawyers."

The trial for rebellion also involves the other members of the first military junta: Jorge Rafael Videla and Eduardo Emilio Massera, who have also been sentenced for crimes perpetrated during the antisubversive struggle. [passage omitted]

April Inflation Hits Record 33.4 Percent
PY0605031989 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 2154 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 May (NA)—The consumer price index, which approximately measures the cost of living, increased by 33.4 percent in April, a record unequaled since March 1976, when the previous constitutional government was deposed.

The wholesale price index rose 58.0 percent, and the construction price index, 54.1 percent, the National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC) officially reported.

*** Economic Situation Drives Rising Emigration**

36200143 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
10 Apr 89 p 193

[Unattributed report: "The Way to Hell—The Former Land of Immigration Has Become a Land of Emigration—That Is How Great the Hardship Is"]

[Text] When Matias Gil is rinsing plates and glasses behind the counter of his bar in Alicante in southern Spain, he frequently hums the tune "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" with happiness.

As a young man, Gil had emigrated to Argentina from poverty-stricken Spain because he felt he would have a better future there. In 1988, the same motive brought him back to his homeland. "I shall never again go over there," he said with determination, "Argentina lies along the direct path to hell."

At the very least, the one-time fifth richest country in the world has embarked on an unstoppable economic downturn—both dictators as well as democrats have caused this desperate situation. Many Argentines, therefore, are following a collective escape reflex in accordance with the motto "Every man for himself!"

Some 2.7 million of the around 32 million inhabitants live far from their homeland, which is blessed by nature. According to a study made by the city administration of Buenos Aires, one-third of young Argentines living in major cities would emigrate if that were possible: the one-time land of immigration has become a land of emigration.

Impoverishment is dramatic. The purchasing power of the state-set minimum wage of \$240 per year in 1981 has declined to the current \$40 per month. The daily wages of a laborer are barely sufficient today to purchase 1 kg of chicken.

Teachers must get by on \$80, physicians in hospitals on \$120. Even President Raul Alfonsin must be satisfied with a salary of less than \$300 per month.

In the Province of La Rioja, which is governed by the Peronista presidential candidate, Carlos Menem, civil service employees, whose numbers have ballooned to 10 percent of the population, were already being paid with substitute money, that is to say, with vouchers, which were valid only within the borders of the province and were thus not usable for travel and purchases outside of the province.

Argentina has become poor; abroad, it is more than \$60 billion in debt—the highest per capita indebtedness in Latin America. The budget deficit has risen to more than

70 percent of the gross national product. Yet, pressure from the overly powerful Peronista trade unions prevents any kind of austerity policy.

The ebb in the state treasury led to the hitherto worst energy crisis in the country. Damaged turbines in hydroelectric power plants, for the repair of which there was no money, and a dry summer forced hour-long interruptions in the power supply every day—with catastrophic effects for industry throughout the land.

Hard times have also befallen former well-to-do population strata. Dr Osvaldo Aguilar manages to earn only about \$400 a month in his private clinic in San Juan. "I must run after my patients in order to collect even a portion of the bill," he complains, "everything that still even looks like prosperity today is a shell of the past."

Transport entrepreneur Enrique Ranger also feels threatened by ruin and is currently forced to sell off his fleet of 25 Scania cargo trucks cheap so as not to go further into the red. "I lose money on every kilometer," he says excitedly, "since gasoline amounts to 36 percent of our costs, nothing is moving here anymore."

The Argentines long for the good old days when supersteak was still dirt cheap. Eng Jose Luis Miranda from Resistencia even thinks that he has found a biological cause for the hard times: "The scum of southern Europe has collected here—the cretins of southern Italy and Galicia."

The long lines in front of the Italian Consulate General in Buenos Aires attest to the homesickness for the land of origin of many Argentines. Hundreds of thousands, whose families immigrated one or two generations ago from Europe are taking advantage of their right of claiming the citizenship of their parents or grandparents.

Emigration to North America is particularly painful for Argentines. Like a magnet, the United States attracts primarily physicians, engineers, and scientists whose services have not yet benefited Argentina following an expensive course of education.

The employees of the firm of Orientar S.A. in Buenos Aires, which has specialized in emigration assistance, are well-off. When the establishment advertised for customers by running a newspaper advertisement saying "We are looking for people who want to work abroad," 2,000 inquiries were on hand the next day.

Europe is arousing the longing of mostly younger Argentines. With naive ignorance of the problems of the old Continent, the countries of the European Community are characterized, among other things, as a paradise which one would like to be allowed to enter. Young Argentine Germans virtually worship the land of their forefathers, and conjure up visions of the alleged Motherland as being one of order and industry, of hard but well-paid work.

The German consulates were in high gear in 1988. Consul Fritjof Westroem in El Dorado had to deal with three times as many passport applications than was the case before. Primarily underpaid academicians are striving to go to the Federal Republic.

And the Argentines are pressing to enter their former mother country of Spain particularly since they can obtain citizenship there after only 2 years of residence. Vineyard owner Maria Monche, for example, sent her 19-year-old son Luis on a visit to Madrid some months ago—he is making no provisions to return; rather, he is working today in the restaurant operated by his uncle on the Costa Blanca.

"I am staying here," he says, "I feel well in Spain because here I find optimism and chances for advancement."

* Port Investment Plan To Improve Infrastructure

* Investment Program

33480157c Buenos Aires *AMBITO FINANCIERO* in Spanish 28 Mar 89 p 49

[Text] The General Administration of Ports has scheduled an investment plan this year that emphasizes enhancements and the adaptation of existing infrastructure over new projects.

The infrastructure enhancements consist basically of the restoration of piers that are currently in disuse, particularly the ones in port zones with high demand (the groin of piers 2 and 3 in the port of Buenos Aires, wharves in area 6, Quequen shore and areas 8 and 9 of the Necochea shore; wharves 5, 6 and 7 of Concepcion del Uruguay). The idea is to earmark the available funds for overhauling the infrastructure that protects the shoreline at various ports, repairing wharves and refurbishing sea walls.

As far as new projects are concerned, emphasis has been placed on the construction of small yards for storing cargo outdoors (yards 5, 6 and 7 of Concepcion del Uruguay; paving the wharf in the fourth section of Rosario, paving the wharf and yard at dock E in Buenos Aires). Also on tap is improved paving of the accesses to the wharves in the New Port of Buenos Aires, various areas of Diamante and Mar del Plata.

Problem

An attempt has been made to resolve the problem of lack of space near the wharves by continuing the demolition of the hangars that was begun in 1983 and that has worked very well on dock B. This plan is made advisable by the current need to use heavy machinery, large trucks and containers. Concurrent with this demolition work, new high-capacity pavement will be laid, as well as tracks for cranes and railway cars, new electric-power lines, drinking water facilities for the vessels, and everything necessary for the new modes of operation.

In Buenos Aires a large warehouse is also scheduled to be built to decentralize container storage and to store merchandise in a section of the Northern New Port of Buenos Aires far from the wharves.

To enhance the networks that provide water to vessels, renovation has been scheduled for Barranqueras, Mar del Plata and Bahia Blanca. At the latter port, to facilitate the dredging work that a Soviet enterprise is doing, the second half of the Hierro de Puerto Ingeniero White Wharf is scheduled to be removed; the first half had been removed previously.

Various lighting projects are also on tap at Barranqueras, San Nicolas, Quequen and Deseado.

Although new machinery is not expected to be brought in, three electric diesel locomotives in the Port of Buenos Aires and one in Rosario are scheduled to be refurbished.

This investment program is several times larger than last year's, which was severely cut back because of the need to normalize the amount of money in circulation.

* Prospects Bright

33480157b Buenos Aires *AMBITO FINANCIERO* in Spanish 28 Mar 89 p 48

[Text] The current Board of Directors of the General Administration of Ports (AGP) is the first under the new company's new status as a state-run enterprise, which began in 1987.

"This," says the president of AGP, Ricardo Gastaldi, "meant modifying certain structures and, mainly, the enterprise's organizational *modus operandi*."

Gastaldi was first a member of the board, which took office in January 1988, then its vice president (as of 15 May) after Messrs Francia and Lastiri resigned, and finally its president as of 14 September.

"We found the enterprise to be in worrisome condition," he adds, "with unpaid social security contributions and considerably in arrears in paying its foreign debt."

"The approach was to control spending and investments, to pay off the 1987-88 external debt, to introduce a system of voluntary retirement and to encourage early retirement, among other things."

Gastaldi contends that considerable success has been achieved on all these projects; uniforms have been handed out to personnel under the existing contracts; the motor vehicle fleet has been cut back, and there has been austerity in financial management.

"We covered the debt with contributions from the Treasury, as well as by forced savings, which brought in \$2.5 million. And relations with the unions are marked by mutual support," he adds.

In 1988 the General Administration of Ports posted an operating surplus of \$15 million.

According to Gastaldi, the AGP accounts for between 15 and 17 percent of port costs. He does not deny that if the Ports Law is passed, a full-fledged transformation of the port system will have to begin.

He also indicates that "we want the users to participate. We have stepped up work on the wharf at Puerto Deseado, which is supposed to be completed by the end of the year, and we are seeking to intensify the use of vacant space at ports."

* Company Streamlined

33480157c Buenos Aires *AMBITO FINANCIERO* in Spanish 28 Mar 89 p 48

[Text] The priority issues that concerned the AGP in 1988 had to do with a total reordering of spending, a proper allocation of resources and a drastic cut in unproductive expenditures.

In this regard, specific successes were achieved through a series of measures: the sale of vehicles earmarked for personnel transport; the reduction of overtime, telephone lines and electricity use, and a sharp cut in the consumption of materials and supplies and in freight and hauling charges. Wage commitments were thus met, and forced savings of 4 percent over total outlays were even achieved. The AGP did not have to turn to the Treasury for funding either.

New Wharf

A cooperation agreement with the Japanese Government through its JICA agency provided \$21 million for the construction of a new fishing wharf at Puerto Deseado (Santa Cruz Province). It was built by the Taisei Corporation of Japan.

According to estimates at this point, it could be completed by year end.

To continue making headway on such projects the AGP launched a plan to seek out investors. Cargill S.A., the Association of Argentine Cooperatives and Indupa S.A., among others, were invited to build a grain-storage and -loading plant and a loading platform for by-products (both in Cangrejales, Bahia Blanca) and to extend a wharf in Puerto Galvan, Bahia Blanca.

In another vein, the accounts payable sector was bolstered so that it could begin collecting debts from official agencies and state-run enterprises and keep track of other debts of private customers. Equipment that had been put out of service was also sold off, and employer contributions and other debts were brought up to date.

The AGP emphasized raising its employees' skill levels at banks that gave courses for service companies. Successful efforts were also made for employees to attend advanced-training courses in ports overseas (Cadiz and Antwerp).

Exchanges with various sectors of the international maritime community were not neglected either. The AGP received a mission from the EEC, another from Japan's Transportation Ministry and, in early March, a group from the Autonomous Port of Le Havre (France).

An agreement to train white- and blue-collar workers is also being sought with the Italian port of Trieste.

The financial sector is planning to move Puerto Madero so that it can use and receive the financial contribution of this nonoperational area of the port that covers 11 hectares of land and 28 hectares of water.

Nevertheless, the feeling is that the AGP's overall balance sheet as of 31 December 1988 could show a deficit because of the heavy depreciation of the company's physical assets (wharves and buildings, mainly).

* Fleet Impaired for Lack of Spare Parts

33480160b Buenos Aires *LA PRENSA* in Spanish 4 Apr 89 p 7

[Text] The Secretariat of Technical Planning of the Ministry of Defense hopes that the new members of the economic cabinet will take favorable action on a request for approval of an "emergency" budget allocation for the purchase of spare parts for the navy units.

This information was provided by a highly placed source in the Ministry of Defense, who stated that the money to be provided for this allocation will come from the 1988 budget.

The request was presented to the Ministry of Economy and was about to be considered favorably when there was a change of ministers in that department.

According to one report, the change of ministers in the Ministry of Economy took place at a time when various military appeals were presented regarding the budgetary situation.

In the course of last week Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini, the secretary of technical planning, held a series of conversations with senior commanders of the army and the navy to deal with this situation.

Difficulties

In concrete terms it was stated that the delay in providing budgetary allocations has made the implementation of already reduced military programs noticeably more difficult.

The armed forces must obtain various imported items at the free market rate for the austral, and it has been difficult to do this, due to the lack of resources and the sharp rise in the U.S. dollar during the past week.

In the case of the Navy the greatest problem has come up due to the impossibility of the fleet's putting to sea because of technical flaws in some units which cannot be repaired because of a lack of spare parts.

Submarines

On this point it is stated that of the four submarines which might take part in naval maneuvers two are out of service. The two remaining submarines, in view of the lack of certain imported items, would reportedly operate with significant limitations.

The present situation is also affecting the repair of the aircraft carrier "25 de Mayo," which is expected to be out of service for 18 months, and Naval Aviation, which reportedly has only three Super Etendard aircraft fully operational.

In terms of the army the situation reportedly may make it difficult to carry on the normal training and deployment of troops assigned to the protection of the national elections of 14 May.

* Subversive Propaganda Within University Grounds 33480160e Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Apr 89 p 8

[Text] The charge made by two political leaders of the opposition that subversive recruiting is going on in the halls of the University of Argentina should arouse a logical concern, both among the authorities as well as in healthy public opinion, although in the case of the authorities it does not appear to have made much of an impact. It has been pointed out that in the School of Law and in other institutions of the university leaflets have been distributed claiming responsibility for the attack and subsequent rounding up of the military unit at La Tablada barracks, which took place in January.

The text of the pamphlets calls the actions of the security forces a "massacre," and it calls for the "release" of those implicated in the bloody events. Although it may appear that nothing can now surprise the distressed citizens of Argentina, who believe that some time ago they had already exceeded their capacity to be surprised, it is truly anomalous that there could be revolutionary recruiting activity going on in the halls of the university, within sight and with the knowledge of its authorities. In effect, it has made the alarming impression that the directors of such high centers of study should have shown themselves so curiously passive regarding the distribution of leaflets by subversive agents. Such an attitude certainly cannot be characterized as toleration

of the freedom of expression but rather as absolute irresponsibility, which is an offense against the very security of the university community.

Consequently, it is urgent that this episode be clarified properly, as its seriousness cannot escape anyone. Those involved in failing to comply with the most elementary duties of control and vigilance inherent in their character as government officials should be appropriately punished. However, over and above any other considerations the necessary measures must be taken to avoid a future repetition of such shameful and dangerous incidents.

Bolivia

Reportage on Nation's Election Results

Workers 'Not Interested'

PY0905031989 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish
0000 GMT 9 May 89

[Excerpt] According to COB [Bolivian Labor Confederation] Organization Secretary Justo Perez, workers are not interested in the results of the election because the three largest parties, the only ones with a chance to rule the country, have similar economic programs that follow the policies of the past administration, and these policies have greatly hurt the labor class.

[Begin Perez recording] The election does not offer alternatives to workers because the economic model of the present administration is followed by the other candidates, particularly the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] and the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action]. Therefore, our work will not change; workers will continue struggling with their problems as before. We have many problems pending. I think the government has been studying some of these problems for a long time now without offering any solution. The way it is now, the new government will have to deal with the same problems again.

Yesterday's election, with the exception of some cases of violence and some cases of fraud, came and went unnoticed. We have to emphasize that the MNR and the ADN have used public property for their own benefit, but these are things for the other political parties to criticize. We will wait to see how Congress decides the issue. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Observers: Elections 'Transparent'

PY0905145889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0315 GMT
9 May 89

[Text] La Paz, 8 May (EFE)—Observers from various European and Latin American countries, and from the OAS, today stated that the general elections staged in Bolivia on 7 May were completely transparent and efficient.

The OAS observer agreed to the fact that "the electoral process was almost perfect" due to the efficiency of the electoral boards, and the guarantees granted by the government authorities.

An OAS observer said that we cannot say that there was fraud during the presidential elections that were held on 7 May because "that would be a dangerous and harmful statement that would tarnish the cleanliness of these elections."

He said that there were irregularities, as in all countries, but that they were overcome in an amazing way in Bolivia through the dialogue and the observance of the law. These irregularities did not affect the electoral process.

Official spokesmen stressed the success of the ruling Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR), which is running second in the polls. The MNR closely follows its former ally, the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), led by General Hugo Banzer Suarez.

Information Minister Herman Antelo said that the votes obtained by the MNR reflect a marked support by the people for the "new economic policy" implemented by President Victor Paz Estenssoro in August 1985.

Antelo also said that the result reveals that the voters believe that the ruling party candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada has the aptitudes to continue with the current political and economic model.

According to the ATB National Private Television Network data center, the ADN has 26.8 percent of the votes, the MNR has 26 percent, while the Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MIR) of former vice president Jaime Paz Zamora ranks fourth.

Representatives from several political organizations, however, today charged that there is "evidence of fraud." ADN deputy chief Guillermo Fortun pointed out that his party has proved that "there are irregularities that could result in the annulment of many official vote-count reports."

Fortun added that the MNR is responsible for these irregularities. Members of the MNR today proclaimed Sanchez de Lozada as the "winner" of the presidential and congressional elections held on Sunday.

MIR deputy leader Oscar Eid said that it is clear that there were "three winners" because the MIR obtained the same percentage of votes as the ADN and the MNR.

Tomorrow, the National Electoral Court will begin the official vote count that was scheduled for today. The vote count will take place at the Ciudad de la Paz Coliseum which has been closed, and which will receive all the ballot boxes that were used in the provincial capitals and districts.

Delegates: Elections 'Clean'

PY0905125689 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish
1130 GMT 9 May 89

[Excerpts] The delegates sent by European and U.S. organizations to Bolivia to observe the elections on 7 May have said that the elections were clean. During a news conference last night, the representative of the Electoral Advice and Promotion Center, CAPEL, expressed their satisfaction over the Bolivian elections and over the performance of the electoral courts.

Uruguayan delegate Pablo Garcia and Organization of American States, OAS, delegate (Santiago Rasponi) have said that all guarantees were given to make the elections reflect the will of the people. [passage omitted]

Asked about irregularities in the elections, Garcia said:

[Begin recording] The irregularities, or alleged irregularities, that were reported by some mass media are typical cases that exist in all countries, even in Uruguay. Irregularities are caused by the inexperience of some members of the board in charge of a voting booth, and of the nervousness of the political sectors which see many more problems than there really are. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

La Paz Department Results

PY1005030489 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish
0000 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] La Paz Department Electoral Court, Murillo Province, today issued a report on the 1st day of vote counting at the court. The court opened 231 ballot boxes, approved 193, left 22 pending, and annulled 16 for violations of the law.

Out of a total of 39,933 valid votes, 14,025 went to CONDEPA [Conscience of the Fatherland], 9,296 to the ADN, 7,763 to the MNR, 5,794 to the MIR, and 1,250 to the United Left. The other political parties received a low percentage of votes.

Jose Luis Paredes, president of the La Paz Department Electoral Court, Murillo Province, said the 1st day of work went without incidents, but that some ballot boxes were annulled on legal grounds.

[Begin Paredes recording] The most common reasons for annulment are when the vote count does not carry the signature of one of the three accredited jurors, or when the figures have corrections and strikeovers that are not later clarified. [end recording]

Government To Recognize 'Whoever Wins' in Panama
*PY1005014889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0022 GMT
10 May 89*

[Text] La Paz, 10 May (EFE)—Today the Bolivian authorities announced they will recognize any government elected in the Panamanian elections held on 7 May.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia said the legitimacy of the elections in Panama cannot be questioned; therefore, his government will recognize anyone who is elected by the Panamanian people.

Abecia said his government will recognize whoever wins the Panamanian elections, either Guillermo Endara, candidate of the opposition Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), or Carlos Duque, candidate of the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA).

The new Panamanian ambassador to Bolivia, Carlos Gonzalez, who presented his credentials on 8 May, requested "continental solidarity" in the face of "the threat of U.S. military intervention" in his country.

Minister Supports Environmental Preservation
*PY0905140489 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish
1130 GMT 9 May 89*

[Text] Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia has said that at the Cartagena Agreement Presidential Meeting, Bolivia advocated the uncompromising defense of the natural resources of the region. Upon returning to our country, Abecia briefed the president on the talks that he held with the presidents of the nations of the subregion.

The minister stressed the need to strengthen the actions that seek to preserve the environment and to prevent developed nations from irrationally developing the natural resources.

The Bolivian proposal notes that rational and intelligence efforts should be made for the adoption of a system of regulations, and an investment strategy that will preserve nature and the environment, and to properly develop resources, seeking to increase the well-being of the people.

The minister said that he was pleased by the work undertaken in Brazil, particularly the progress made toward the implementation of a joint effort that may yield benefits to the countries of the region and to the entire world.

He recalled that the Amazon region has great potential, which is important for all mankind, taking into account its influence on the environment.

Brazil

Trade Meeting With U.S. Delegation Concludes
*PY1005012889 Brasilia Domestic Service
in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 May 89*

[Report from Brasilia by reporter Gustavo Mariane]

[Text] Brazil and the United States have held their first meeting on bilateral trade since George Bush assumed power as U.S. President. The meeting, which concluded in Brasilia today, was considered positive by the two delegations, although they admitted it was not a negotiating meeting.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry thinks this meeting will open the way for a better understanding of the Brazilian and U.S. positions regarding trade.

Samuel Pinheiro de Magalhaes, chief of the Brazilian delegation at the meeting, said the Americans never accused Brazil of harming their trade, which ranges from pharmaceuticals and chemical products to chocolates.

[Begin Pinheiro de Magalhaes recording] The U.S. delegation did not mention those products. They only discussed the overall subject of applications of the trade law. They never raised any questions on the products mentioned in the first list of claims made by U.S. companies. [end recording]

According to Pinheiro de Magalhaes, the two delegations will meet again when the U.S. position becomes clearer regarding their trade relations with Brazil, a country only interested in improving trade relations.

Venezuelan Military To Expel 3,000 Miners
*PY0905215989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1556 GMT
9 May 89*

[Text] Boa Vista (Brazil), 9 May (EFE)—The atmosphere of tension and uncertainty on the Brazilian-Venezuelan border has increased after the deadline set by the Venezuelan Armed Forces for the withdrawal of 3,000 Brazilian miners, who invaded Venezuelan territory, expired.

The Venezuelan troops announced that beginning on 8 May at 1800 they will attack any Brazilian plane that sorties into Venezuelan territory. Thus, a definitive closure of the region's airspace was ordered.

Over 2,000 Brazilian miners still in the region do not know how to return to Brazil.

Brazilian Environmental Institute Chairman Fernando Cesar Mesquita yesterday overflowed the area in an attempt to discuss the issue with Venezuelan authorities. The helicopter carrying Mesquita, however, had to return quickly to Brazilian territory because Venezuelan fighter planes began to follow it.

The presence of Brazilian miners on Venezuelan soil was discovered a month ago during a dragnet carried out by members of the Venezuelan National Guard, who discovered toxic substances used to refine the gold in the Orinoco River, Venezuela's main river.

Shortly afterward, it was verified that approximately 3,000 Brazilian miners had entered the area, and that they had built a landing strip known as "Constituyente." They use the landing strip to transport their equipment and maintain a regular supply of fuel and food, just as they usually do in the Brazilian forest.

By the end of April, the Caracas press had reported the news and demanded the immediate expulsion of the Brazilian miners from the region, which is part of a Venezuelan forest reserve bordering Roraima State on Brazil's northern border.

The Venezuelan consul at Boa Vista, Antonio Quintans, reported early in May that the Brazilian miners had received a note from the Venezuelan military authorities ordering them to leave the area within 48 hours.

Luis Morais da Silva, the chief of a group of 70 Brazilian miners said: "Gold and forests all look alike." He said this to justify the invasion of Venezuelan territory.

The Brazilian miners said the deadline set by Venezuelan authorities was insufficient because they needed time to dismantle their equipment and take it to Brazil.

The Venezuelan military authorities, however, said that while the people had to return to Brazil, the equipment had to stay.

Upon landing in Paapiu, 230 km from Boa Vista, a miner's wife who was carrying her belongings said: "This is inhumane. Even if we have made a mistake, the Brazilian Government should protect us." She was lamenting the loss of the rest of her belongings.

After the 48-hour deadline expired, the only possibility for the more than 2,000 miners to return to Brazil is through a completely unknown jungle area.

Army Minister Says 'Country Lacks Discipline'
PY0805184089 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 7 May 89 p 10

[Text] Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves yesterday referred to the wave of strikes. He said that "the country lacks discipline" and that "democracy is being confused with chaos," adding that he is certain that "grandeur can only be attained through democracy."

At the ceremony marking the centenary of the founding of the Rio de Janeiro Military College, which he attended along with Aeronautics Minister Moreira Lima,

the Army minister praised the college "whose desks have been occupied by marshalls, ministers, and artists," and stressed the discipline that governs the military institutions.

Upon the insistence of the journalists, Minister Pires Goncalves talked about the strikes. He said that some stoppages are intended "to defend the workers," but many strikes "have political and ideological aspects."

Leonidas Pires said that he was not especially concerned about the strike situation and the incident in Volta Redonda. Referring to police assertions that the bomb that destroyed the memorial for workers, who died confronting the military, might have been planted by professionals, Leonidas Pires said that "there are many good professionals that can make explosives in Brazil." Jokingly, he added, "every stone quarry has at least one."

Brigadier Moreira Lima made this remark: "Let's see if we can overcome this wave of bad judgment and insanity that is being observed in Brazil."

Armed Forces Repudiate Disruptive Strikes
PY0905011689 Brasilia Domestic Service
in Portuguese 2000 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] The Armed Forces have confirmed their commitment to the democratic order. In the Order of the Day that was read today in all military units to mark Victory Day, the ministers of the Army, Navy, and Air Force assert that those minority groups who deceive the working class are not patriotic because they use the sacred social right to strike to intimidate society and disorganize the production sectors.

Aeronautics Minister General Moreira Lima said that the Order of the Day is an expression of faith in democracy.

[Begin Moreira Lima recording] It is basically an appeal to all civilians and a repudiation of the kind of violent strike that we all followed through the media and that, without a doubt, disrupts the Brazilian democratic process. We therefore expressed our faith in the defense of democratic ideals. That was our message. I am sure it interpreted the feelings of the overwhelming majority of Brazilian society. [end recording]

Gen Moreira Lima made these statements today during a ceremony to commemorate Victory Day that took place at the monument for the dead in World War II in Flamengo Park, Rio de Janeiro.

Labor Organization Elects New Leader
PY0905000289 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 7 May 89 p 53

[Excerpt] The Brazilian labor movement corporative model that was established after the consolidation of our labor laws during the New State [late 1930's] has become

obsolete. This structure was designed with a fascist frame of mind. The country's labor structure, however, is slowly developing into an American- or European-style labor movement, and the process has consolidated following the apparent retirement of one of the last important representatives of the old model: Joaquim dos Santos Andrade, or simply Joaquinzaio. According to an expert, Joaquinzaio is charismatic but too old-fashioned.

Last week Joaquinzaio was defeated at the General Central Organization of Workers (CGT) election by Antonio Rogerio Magri. His defeat strengthened the structure of the local labor movement, but his criticism of the new ways cast some doubts on the new leadership. The CGT has received donations from U.S. organizations such as the Labor Cultural Institute (ICT) which has links with the American Federation of Labor. The Institute's donation amounts to \$200,000 annually. Magri said, however, that the other labor organization, the Sole Central Organization of Workers (CUT) cannot escape this criticism because "the CUT receives approximately \$3 million per year from foreign sources."

The split within the CGT, according to Joaquinzaio, will show the country how much he is still able to accomplish, and he added: "I am still holding some aces." For the time being he has ruled out joining the CUT. According to some of his advisers, he might end up creating a third labor federation at a meeting with CGT dissidents convened for the 3d [month not specified] in Sao Paulo. [passage omitted]

*** Joint Space Program Negotiated With Iraq**
33420045 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 19 Mar 89 p C-7

[Text] Twenty years after it was created, the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (EMBRAER)—an aircraft manufacturer connected with the Ministry of Aviation—is getting ready to jump into a new business and technological field: it will participate in the manufacture of artificial satellites and equipment related to the exploration of space. During a trip to the Middle East 2 months ago, Ozilio Silva, the engineer who is president of EMBRAER, made arrangements with the Government of Iraq for a program valued at \$80 million (136 million new cruzados at the parallel market rate), to build a military reconnaissance satellite and a laboratory for assembling and testing satellites similar to the one at the National Institute of Space Research (INPE) in Sao Paulo.

Ozilio Silva's mission in Baghdad (the Iraqi capital) doesn't mean that EMBRAER is going to curb its aircraft production. On the contrary; the company intends to increase its role in Iraq with a view to selling more planes—especially the AMX tactical fighter, of Italian-Brazilian design. However, the satellite project (which was first reported 2 weeks ago by FOLHA reporter Ricardo Julio) affords yet another very interesting prospect for Silva: it could open up new horizons for Orbita, a Sao Paulo firm. Created in January 1987—as a result

of an association between EMBRAER, ENGESA, IMBEL (connected with the Ministry of the Army), and a group of smaller firms—to produce missiles, Orbita was the victim of over-optimistic estimates as to its potential, and today is virtually dormant. Ozilio Silva is chairman of the board of Orbita.

The satellite which the Iraqis ordered is of a much less sophisticated type than the major powers use. It will be built using INPE's experience in scientific projects, and then be fitted with optoelectronic equipment and a high-resolution camera for photographing military activities on the earth's surface.

'My Minister'

An important role in the construction of the Iraqi satellite has been set aside for Brigadier General (Reserve) Hugo de Oliveira Piva, former director of the Ministry of Aviation's Aerospace Technical Center (CTA), but it is really INPE, now part of the recently created Science and Technology Secretariat, that will do the fundamental work. Headquartered in the Sao Paulo State city of Sao Jose dos Campos (85 km northeast of the city of Sao Paulo), INPE is just now finishing the construction of a data collection satellite that would have been put into space this year were it not for the fact that development of its launch rocket, a satellite launch vehicle (VLS) to be built by the Ministry of Aviation's Space Activities Institute (IAE), is running 2 years behind schedule.

The entire effort to fill the Iraqi order could already be well underway if it hadn't been for the change in INPE leadership as a result of the differences of opinion between the Institute and the Ministry of Aviation with respect to the Brazilian space program. The new INPE director, Marcio Barbosa, seems hesitant to conclude an agreement with EMBRAER and the companies that now comprise Orbita without formal approval from the government. About 2 weeks ago, when talking to a friend, Barbosa mentioned the pressure he had been getting from Ozilio Silva and Piva to sign the working agreement as quickly as possible: "They keep after me, but it won't help. I don't do anything without the permission of my minister."

The minister Marcio Barbosa was talking about was, at that time, the minister of industrial development, Roberto Cardoso Alves. But "Big Bob"—as he was better known in political circles—is no longer responsible for science and technology, and since the INPE director is now without a minister, the Iraqi project is, temporarily, in limbo.

Difficult Times in the Armaments Sector Facilitate Accord

What the engineer Ozilio Silva is trying to do—harmonize the interests of several Brazilian companies in the war materiel sector into a single project, (the artificial

satellite for Iraq), is not unheard of. What makes people sit up and take notice is that Silva has a chance of success—and that would indeed be news. Early in the Sarney administration, the chief of the armed forces General Staff (EMFA) at the time, Admiral Jose Maria do Amaral, dreamed of coordinating the cooperative efforts of several industrial firms in the area of rockets. He even imagined he might preside over a Brazilian equivalent of NASA. Neither dream came true.

Internally, the Brazilian companies that have the technological capacity to get involved in programs of this type persist in a rivalry that is difficult to circumvent. Two factors, may, however, make Silva's task easier: First, the recognition that he heads a successful company that has plenty of military backing; and second, the circumstance that all the leading Brazilian armaments firms are experiencing very difficult times right now.

It's possible that the present combination of internal economic crisis and competition on the international market will force the domestic companies to march shoulder to shoulder to carve out a new niche in the market—in this case, artificial satellites for Third World countries. In that event, the likely leader would be Ozilio Silva, but the union will have been born of necessity. It remains to be seen whether an alliance of Brazilian companies set up to work on foreign shores might serve to open new vistas for the Brazilian space program which, controlled by the Ministry of Aviation, is going so badly here at home.

Former President Was Against Project 'in the Stratosphere'

"Minister, this company operates in the atmosphere, not in the stratosphere." With those words, pronounced mildly and in jest, Ozires Silva, a colonel in the reserve and the former president of Embraer, managed to resist throughout the entire previous administration the onslaughts by General Octavio Medeiros, then minister and chief of the National Intelligence Service (SNI) who, according to Silva, kept insisting that an astronautics affairs division be set up within Embraer.

Ozires Silva's position is not the one being taken by his successor, Ozilio Silva. Ozilio always dreamed of projects involving rockets and satellites. Medeiros felt the need for the new division because he was concerned about Brazil's military development. Ozilio sees satellites as yet another opportunity for Embraer to expand its business. The Embraer president has already described to Marcio Barbosa, director of INPE, his plan for getting Brazil into space activities on a commercial scale.

Ozilio believes that the contract with Iraq—to supply a military reconnaissance satellite and a satellite testing laboratory—could be drawn up by Engexco, the trading company for the Engesa group, and that an engineering firm should be the principal contractor on behalf of the

group of Brazilian companies responsible for the project. He says this firm could be Esca—a shareholder in Orbita—or another company set up just for that purpose.

The Embraer president believes that there are other companies besides his company, INPE (which has the only team of scientists in Brazil especially trained in building and testing satellites), Engexco, and Esca, that could participate in the enterprise—such as Engetronica, which is also a part of the Engesa group. "Embraer is already making the entire carbon fiber structure of the data collection satellite that INPE is finishing building for the Brazilian space program, and is doing something in terms of bonded materials too. What we are going to do is develop the capabilities of each Brazilian company, and give a lot of people work to do," Ozilio Silva said.

*** Presidential Campaigns of Major Parties Viewed 33420046 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Mar 89 p 4**

[Commentary by Eliane Cantanhede and Mary Zaidan]

[Text] Brasilia—Eight months away from the first direct voting in a presidential election in 29 years, the absence of ideology is the major flaw in most Brazilian political parties. But the two largest parties, the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) and the Liberal Front Party (PFL), have other, specific and very similar, afflictions. Both hold cabinet positions in the Sarney administration but proclaim themselves to be opposition parties. They also have "natural candidates" who excite neither the electorate nor even their own grass-roots supporters. Both are split into three antagonistic factions, a circumstance that could shift votes to Leonel Brizola of the Democratic Worker's Party (PDT), Mario Covas of the Brazilian Democratic Socialist Party (PSDB), or the unaffiliated Janio Quadros.

The origin of the dilemma of the two biggest parties lies in the long years of Manichaeism, of heterogeneous fronts formed to say "yes" or "no" to the military regimes. The party regrouping occurred in 1979; the new Constitution was enacted in 1988. Despite losses, the fronts survived because of complacency: they have solid party organizations throughout Brazil, their acronyms are familiar to the voters, and they had the power to distribute jobs and favors from a government that they claim not to support. The PMDB is best example of this, but when the young PFL was created in 1984, it inherited the same ingrained behavior patterns from its mother party, the Social Democratic Party (PDS).

The PMDB, with eight ministers billeted in the Sarney government, has three factions—Ulyssists, proadministrationists and antiadministrationists—crossing swords to impose an identity on the party. The PFL, with four ministers, has Aurelians, proadministrationists and antiadministrationists fighting just to dominate the party structure. "Everyone pretends not to be, but in fact everyone is in love with the government," said the coordinator

of Janio Quadros' campaign, Augusto Marzagao, unmasking the dilemma of the two parties. "There isn't a single political body that's free of 'fisiologismo'" agrees Luis Roberto Ponte, a PMDB congressman from Rio Grande do Sul and a proadministrationist.

Strong Candidate

So the real challenge faced by the PMDB and the PFL in the succession process is to find a candidate who is strong enough to generate an expectation of victory and prevent the disintegration that, today, seems inevitable. But there is a "crucial difference" between the two, in the opinion of the PFL's Lucio Alcantara, an antiadministrationist from Ceara. "The PMDB has a surplus of potential presidential candidates. Unfortunately, that's not the case with us."

Actually, Ulysses Guimaraes is be the natural candidate of the PMDB, but because he places poorly in the polls, he leaves a vacuum that is immediately coveted by governors Waldir Pires (Bahia), Alvaro Dias (Parana), and Orestes Quercia (Sao Paulo)—besides Minister of Agriculture Iris Rezende. Ulysses is not convincing the party but neither are the others, who are staying neutral. In the PFL, meanwhile, there is no alternative to former minister Aureliano Chaves, another potential candidate who hasn't taken off in the polls. And the vacuum transcends party lines: the top level is romancing Covas, the antiadministrationists prefer Janio, and the proadministrationists from eight states (Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraiba, Pernambuco, and Parana) are under the spell of Brizola.

"In my state, Parana, 80 percent of the people at the grass-roots level of the PFL want Brizola," says antiadministrationist Alcenio Guerra, by way of example. "If primaries were held, Brizola would win enough votes to challenge any candidate the party itself might run," he assured us. The Janistas, however, are not giving up on the PFL, imagining it to be an updated version of the National Democratic Union (UDN), which supported Quadros in the tiny National Labor Party (PTN).

Attracting Support

The Janista strategy, incidentally, has turned out well. They had been afraid of businessman Antonio Ermirio de Moraes, and he dropped out of the race; they discouraged Senator Jarbas Passarinho, who then followed Ermirio's lead; they encouraged Aureliano Chaves, who probably will be the PFL candidate. The result of these moves on the presidential succession game board is that Janio Quadros is likely to run under the Brazilian Labor Party (PTB) flag in coalition with the PDS, with Passarinho as vice presidential candidate to attract sizeable support from a PFL terrified of a possible defeat of Aureliano.

More than party affiliation, the electronic media will be either an effective ally or a cruel adversary of the candidates in November. So much so that the PTB, PDS, Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and other less prominent parties are not rushing to choose their candidates. Instead, they are waiting from them to be "elected" by television and the polls, or by some inspiring coalition. Likewise, the handsome young Fernando Collor de Mello opted for an unknown National Reconstruction Party (PRN); the similarly young and handsome Ronaldo Caiado has not even affiliated with a party. And like the theatrical Janio, both are already on the campaign trail.

It was not by coincidence, therefore, that the most ideological parties were the first to decide on their candidates and set out to sell ideas, as well as images, to the almost 80 million Brazilian voters. The Workers' Party (PT), allied with the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB) and the Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B), are running on socialism with Congressman Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva, former leader of the metalworkers. The Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) gets into the video with communism and Congressman Roberto Freire, a veteran militant. The PL [Liberal Party] is selling liberalism and Congressman Guilherme Afif Domingos, former president of the Commercial Association of Sao Paulo, who has succeeded in almost completely overcoming the stigma of his Malufist past. The PSDB is taking a new tack with social-democracy and touts Senator Mario Covas, with eight million votes in Sao Paulo, as captain of a team of intellectuals.

Selling Charisma

The PDT is a special case. A mixture of labor and socialist tendencies, it was actually born during the 1979 party regrouping not to unite adherents of a single ideal, but supporters of the same candidate, i.e., Leonel Brizola. Like Janio Quadros, and in contrast to the PT, PCB, PL, and PSDB, Brizola will sell more charisma than ideas on the November electoral market.

Janio and Brizola sort of symbolize the fragility of Brazil's political parties. The same Janio who as President of Brazil, conferred a decoration on Cuban leader Fidel Castro in 1961 was elected mayor of Sao Paulo 24 years later by sounding a radical anticommunist theme. The same Brizola who got off the plane in Brazil in 1979 as a symbol of the national left has just advocated making alliances "even with the devil"—and especially with the right—in order to gain Planalto Palace.

A Tossed Salad of Acronyms and Ideas

There are candidates without parties and parties without candidates. Or there are charismas in search of an acronym—any acronym at all—and acronyms seeking a charisma, but not just any charisma. This electoral salad

was made from an old recipe: the fragility of parties in Brazil. But it is more highly seasoned now, because of the power the electronic media have over the results of the national balloting.

Most of the parties have no unity of ideas. They multiply at the national, state, and municipal levels. With the end of the "sublegenda" method of accommodating various factions under one party banner, and the survival of the fronts, the Brazilian "jeitinho" introduced new, minor, parties as parallel forces to support anxious governors. In Minas Gerais, Newton Cardoso uses and abuses the goodwill of the PDC, the PTB, and several others. In Parana, Alvaro Dias finds comfort in the PMB [Brazilian Municipalist Party] and the PTN. In Bahia, Waldir Pires has encouraged the PSDB for ideological reasons too, but that is not his only motive. In Alagoas, Fernando Collor de Mello leans on 11 different parties.

Collor, incidentally, was once a member of the UDN and of Arena, not formally but by family tradition, and in the last 5 years has already gone through the PDS, PMDB, and PJ [Youth Party] until inventing a providential PRN from which to launch his candidacy for the presidency in the euphoria following his third-place showing in the opinion polls. No one knows what the PRN—or National Reconstruction Party is—but everyone seems to correctly identify Collor as the one who "hunts down the maharajahs" [officeholders who enjoy excessive privileges at public expense], the image the media has been selling.

Seven Candidacies

The PRN is not even among the 17 parties represented in the National Congress. Only seven of those: the PMDB, PSDB, PDT, PTB, PT, PL, and PCB, are likely to present their own candidacies in the first round of presidential elections. An eighth party, the PFL, is still hesitant. But don't bet on the militants being unconditionally loyal to the candidates in November.

In compensation, Collor already has at least one party behind him, which is not the case with Ronaldo Caiado, chairman of the UDR [Rural Democratic Union], or Janio Quadros, who awaits developments in the PMDB and PFL in order to take better advantage of the PTB national convention on 11 June, which will determine the presidential candidate of the venerable labor banner.

"This business of parties is secondary. If a Barbosa Lima Sobrinho or a Sobral Pinto were to be candidates, would people demand that they be affiliated with some party?" asks the coordinator of Janio Quadros' campaign, Augusto Marzagao, bringing up Janio's old disdain for political parties.

That's not the way the ideological PT, PCB, PL and PSDB, who have already launched candidates, think. Nor is it how the PMDB followers think, asphyxiated as they are by a tremendous number of candidates and the

fear of defeat in November. Parana Governor Alvaro Dias, himself a candidate explains the affinity of the PMDB candidates for their banner: "The PMDB got 30 percent of the votes in Brazil in the municipal elections of 1988 and has executive committees in every little town. That's already enough to get it into the second round."

The issue is that not even the PMDB governors are committing themselves to support the party's official candidate, whoever he may be. How to prevent last November's 30 percent share of the votes from being dispersed, 1 short year later, between Mario Covas of the PSDB, Leonel Brizola of the PDT, and the unaffiliated Janio Quadros? The answer may be a candidate that is an established vote-getter. Or it may be short and blunt: impossible.

Promises for All Tastes

PMDB

In 1983, Roberto Cardoso Alves, now a cabinet minister, signed a manifesto in favor of nationalizing the banks, government takeover of the pharmaceuticals industry, and agrarian reform. Four years later, he voted against all that in the Constituent Assembly. This is a snapshot of Brazil's biggest party, which features a progressive party line, ambiguous actions in practice, and moderate national leadership. Its platform calls for victories for labor, gradual increases in wages, and priority attention to investments in domestic fields of science and technology. "The aim is to fit the PMDB into the Brazilian concept of the center-left," reports Sao Paulo Senator Severo Gomes.

PT

Originating in the union movement, the PT suggests that the road to socialism is through the class struggle. Always orthodox and often even considered "Shiite" in practice, its actions distance it from other currents on the left, with whom it refuses to forge alliances. The PT program is not ready-made, and simply lists goals that have been radicalized in order to resolve emergency questions. For the external debt it proposes a moratorium; to defeat inflation, it suggests real wage increases that would expand purchasing power and make the economy fully functioning.

PFL

Located on the right of the political landscape, the PFL—mainstay of the Democratic Alliance that elected Tancredo Neves—has little to do with liberalism, a doctrine that presupposes that the individual and private capital are free in relation to the state and preaches equality of opportunity for all. The acronym, derived from the extinct National Renewal Alliance (Arena) and the PDS—both accustomed to enjoying the fruits of power—bears the stigma of incumbency, of "fisiologismo", and tremendous internal conflicts. Today it

includes President Sarney's most loyal supporters, although a minority group of dissidents, some of them at the top echelon of the party, are already urging a break with the administration.

PDS

Despite the insistence by Senator Jarbas Passarinho (Para), national party chairman of the PDS, who says that "the party has the most advanced social program," the PDS is far from that reality. The party was born out of the former Arena and is home to most of the mentors of the military regime. Out of power since 1985 following Tancredo Neves' defeat of Paulo Maluf in the electoral college, its representation was substantially weakened. Today it is trying to revive the liberal philosophy, even if it is impregnated with conservatism. Proof of this is that it is likely to seek in Janio Quadros its alternative for returning to power.

PSDB

Founded in mid-1988 by a significant dissident faction to the left of the PMDB, the PSDB seeks to organize itself on the basis of the European experience with social democracy. According to party secretary general Congressman Euclides Scalco (Parana), the PSDB hopes that social democracy will succeed in overcoming the inequalities of Brazilian society, making development compatible with a better distribution of income. Senator Mario Covas (Sao Paulo), PSDB candidate for president of Brazil, explains that social democracy tries to increase the leverage of the workers in fighting for their demands, while promoting the development of Brazil's own enterprises, but does not rule out internationalization of the economy.

PTB

Established in 1945 by Getulio Vargas, the PTB was a tool of the former president's populism, helped to neutralize the emergence of the Communist party, and maintained its role as the perpetual arbitrator between the powerful Social Democratic Party (PSD) and the UDN. Abolished in 1966 by the military, it reappeared 13 years later during a dispute between the late labor Congresswoman Ivete Vargas, and the current potential presidential candidate Leonel Brizola, a socialist. Ivete, niece of Getulio, won out. "In essence, the party today seeks the same thing it urged in 1945, a peaceful and harmonious coexistence between bosses and workers," explains a PTB advisor in Brasilia.

PDT

Using as a foundation the last will and testament of former president Getulio Vargas and the Lisbon Charter, the PDT proposes "democratic laborism," with mobilization of society and partisan political organization of the great working majorities in order to achieve socialism. Far from practicing what it preaches, the party turns

exclusively on the figure of Leonel Brizola, a charismatic—almost messianic—leader. The party platform is the image of Brizola. It gives priority to the child and to society's underdogs: women and blacks. He has even formally promised to "distribute a free liter of milk to all children through the age of 2."

PL

Its formation inspired by the small and medium-sized businessmen to counter the powerful lobby of the big business groups, the young PL plans to rescue the liberal theses under which the presence of the state becomes necessary only to guarantee economic justice and equal access to opportunities. The party has staged a series of debates on this premise, coordinated by Congressman Guilherme Afif Domingos, PL candidate for president. Presented as being from the "modern right," Afif prefers to characterize the party as the instigator of a "modern liberal state," but not as an interventionist in production.

Best Negotiator Will Win Second Round

After almost 30 years, Brazilians will not only be voting for president, but will experiment with the novelty of a two-phase election in the event no candidate wins an absolute majority of the votes on 15 November. The two candidates who do survive the preliminary election will have only a little more than 20 days in which to come to an agreement with the defeated forces. What is most likely, however, is that this polarization will begin to define itself even before the first round. And two major groups—one conservative and the other leftist—are beginning to take shape.

It is inevitable that some of the announced candidates, persuaded of the impossibility of electoral success, will negotiate more comfortable positions with the more viable candidacies rather than expose themselves to the hassle of an election. For example, Congressman Guilherme Afif Domingos, the PL candidate, is looking ahead to the 1990 elections and knows that occupying a ministry is a good short cut to the governorship of Sao Paulo. Despite predictions in his favor by famous clairvoyant Leilah Alkimin, Afif may abandon the trenches even before the battle begins.

It is unlikely that there will be any mergers between leftist party candidates before the first round, but Lula, in a campaign document, stresses the party's interest in a second-round arrangement with Brizola's PDT and Covas' PSDB if he survives the elimination round. Brizola, despite his aggressive treatment of Lula, longs for support from the PT Congressman in the second round. Meanwhile, Senator Mario Covas believes that he may be able to attract not only the left, but the group of progressives who reside in the PMDB and who would not be able to adapt to a candidate identified with the

right, such as Quercia or Iris Rezende. Actually, all of them are anxiously waiting for the PMDB to make up its mind in order to harvest the leavings.

A Blood Pact

The government foresaw as early as a year ago that the holding of a second round would call for a strategy different from that of other elections. An advisor to the Planalto confided, when the Constituent Assembly approved the provision for two rounds, that the government would operate with two candidates: Orestes Quercia and Janio Quadros. "They have made a blood pact, and if one drops out, the other won't run," recalls PMDB administrationist Congressman Luis Roberto Ponte, proving that there is no desire to split the centrist voters, not even during the first round.

Today, with Quercia reluctant to run, the Planalto is encouraging the candidacies of Governor Alvaro Dias and Minister Iris Rezende, while several ministers are zealously working for Janio. Most probably, the final decision by the conservatives and the administration will be made prior to the first stage of the elections and out of this multiplicity of choices just one candidate will emerge, with the assignment to bring the others into the fold.

* Extent of Amazon Deforestation Discussed 33420049a Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 12 Apr 89 pp 58-59

[Text] In the international debate over the preservation of Amazonia, no one can agree on the extent to which the forests have been devastated. The World Bank is working on the basis of a deforestation level of 12 percent (that is, an area the size of the State of Minas Gerais) and has therefore decided to block loans for projects in Brazil's northern states. The National Institute for Amazon Region Research (INPA) has come up with a smaller figure, saying that 8 percent of the forest (an area the size of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul) has been destroyed. The figure closest to reality surfaced last week. According to data collected in recent months by the National Institute of Space Research (INPE) of Sao Jose dos Campos, man has uprooted 5.12 percent of the Amazon region's virgin forests (equivalent in size to the State of Sao Paulo). The institute's researchers reached that conclusion after studying 234 photographs of Legal Amazonia—an immense green area of 5 million square kilometers—that were taken by the U.S. Landsat-6 satellite. "That is the most reliable figure. The rest is lies," says Roberto Pereira da Cunha, director of INPE's Remote Sensing Department and head of the deforestation study.

Those data were announced last Thursday during the government's presentation of a package of ecological measures known as Our Nature—and they provided President Sarney with fuel for defending himself from accusations that his administration is negligent in its

handling of the largest ecological reserve in the world. "They are accusing us of something we cannot accept, which is the destruction of our own territory," said Sarney. The ecological package consists of 17 decrees and 7 draft laws establishing new forest reserves, restricting the use of mercury in the gold fields, and setting up a fund for preserving the environment. "The big powers want us to be their slaves; they want us to accept rules on how to defend that which it is our duty to defend," said the president. It is a fact that international pressures in defense of the Amazon forest exist. Undecided as to how to proceed in planning the development and settlement of the region, the government has launched into verbal retaliation against the attacks by foreign ecologists.

Ore—Minutes after Sarney delivered his nationalistic speech, the minister-chief of the Military Household, Rubens Bayma Denys, coordinator of the Our Nature project, confirmed that the government was going to study proposals for converting the foreign debt into projects for preserving the environment. His rhetoric was very similar to that used by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abreu Sodre, who has offered forests in exchange for the dollars belonging to Brazil's creditors, but it was the directly opposite of the ideas upheld by Sarney. In setting up the National Institute for Renewable Natural Resources, President Jose Sarney chose a journalist, Fernando Cesar Mesquita, to head that institute rather than selecting an expert with recognized experience in defending the environment.

The finding that only 5 percent of Amazonia's forest has been destroyed is far from meaning that we can set our minds at rest. In itself, the figure means little. The strangest thing is what has been done with that vast "estate"—which is a piece of land the size of the State of Sao Paulo occupied by settlers who receive no technical agricultural assistance and who plant only subsistence crops, thus perpetuating the region's poverty. The "big powers" referred to by President Sarney in his speech achieved their stage of development by sacrificing a large share of their forests. Only 9 percent of Great Britain's virgin forests are protected to date. France keeps only 27 percent of its forests intact. Sao Paulo, the most developed state in Brazil, now has only 6 percent of its forest left. In every case, those forests have been replaced by sources of wealth.

Negligence—The bad news is that because of the government's lack of initiative, the devastated area—about 250,000 square kilometers—has not been filled with projects that would develop the region. The forests have been set on fire irresponsibly thanks to a strange government policy of tax incentives. From 1975 to 1985, the Amazonia Investment Fund invested \$1.1 billion in the region—with half that amount going to agriculture and stockraising. Only 3 percent of the projects receiving funds have shown any profitability. It was that illogical policy which caused the deforested area to grow. At the start of the 1970's, a survey by the INPE showed that only 1 percent of the territory covered by Legal Amazonia had been touched.

The deforested area in Amazonia equals 25 million hectares—enough space in which to plant the country's entire crop of soybeans, corn, and wheat, which have been producing record harvests in recent years. Before another square meter of forest is burned, we need to start exploiting rationally the Amazonian territory that has already been devastated. The differing opinions on deforestation had their source in the government's negligence. In 1980, the INPE stopped its remote sensing of the area—and delegated the task to the Brazilian Forestry Development Institute (IBDF), which is now extinct. The IBDF never carried out that mission—and Brazil has been without official statistics on the exploitation of Amazonia throughout the 1980's. The differing figures arose when the various environmental protection organizations made projections, each in its own manner, concerning the number of devastated hectares. Ecologists even said that 43 percent of the forests in the State of Para were endangered. The INPE's researchers found that the devastation had affected only 7 percent of Para's forests. The oddest situation arose in Rondonia, where it was estimated that the state's entire plant cover had been decimated. Rondonia is in fact the Amazonian state where deforestation has reached the critical point, but only 13 percent of its forest has been burned over.

Distorted angle—In recent years, surveys of the Amazon forest were made on the basis of photographs taken by the U.S. NOAA-9 satellite, which is positioned 1,600 km above the earth's surface and whose primary purpose is to forecast the weather. Being very distant from the earth, the NOAA-9 is ideal for analyzing the movement of air masses and ocean temperatures, but it provided only a rough map of the country's natural resources. The NOAA-9 moves in orbit, and at times it faces the earth from a distorted angle, thus confusing the image.

The satellite that furnished images for the remote sensing of Amazonia was the Landsat-6, which is also American. Designed to map natural resources, Landsat is closer to earth—its orbit keeps it at a distance of 705 km from the planet's surface. "The Landsat images have much better definition than those from the NOAA-9 and are not subject to geometric distortion," says oceanographer Renato Herz, assistant professor at Sao Paulo University, which uses the Landsat images to map Brazil's beaches and mangrove swamps. Both Landsat and the NOAA-9 provide incorrect data, however, when they detect burned-over land. They are equipped with a very sensitive channel for estimating the surface temperature. When the forest catches fire, the reflected heat and light are so intense that they confuse the satellite's sensors. Burned-over land shows up much bigger in the photographs than it actually is. Last year, the INPE itself was deceived by the NOAA-9's images. The institute announced that 80,000 square km of forest were burning in Amazonia. It was found later that the burned area was only half that large.

*** Filho on Missile, Guidance System Acquisitions**
33420049b Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 6 Apr 89 p A-10

[Article by Roberto Lopes]

[Text] Brasilia—The Ministry of Aeronautics has decided not to buy Israeli Phytion-3 air-to-air missiles for its AMX fighter-bombers (designed jointly by Italy and Brazil). The new Air Force chief of staff, Brigadier General Cherubim Rosa Filho, said yesterday that the missiles were too expensive—"on the order of \$400,000 or \$500,000 each"—and that their acquisition would not guarantee the transfer by Israel of the technology for manufacturing the missile.

The general announced that the missile which Brazil should choose is the Bravo-P model of the U.S. Sidewinder—a missile which is much less sophisticated than the Phytion-3 but which, on the other hand, has a unit price of less than \$100,000.

Rosa Filho said yesterday that before this year is out, the Brazilian Air Force [FAB] will spend about \$200 million to acquire from 20 to 30 training aircraft for fighter pilots and that the Ministry of Aeronautics will probably choose the Aermacchi MB-339C—a more sophisticated version of the MB-326 (Xavante) that is manufactured under license by Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]. The FAB has been offered the French-West German Alpha Jet and the British Hawk jet aircraft, but the general said they were too expensive. According to Rosa Filho, purchase of the 339C's will enable the FAB to apply at least 60 percent of the existing aid package for Xavantes to that new batch of jets.

The Air Force chief of staff announced that his ministry would have to spend another \$15 million or \$20 million to buy a jet fighter simulator. That equipment will be installed at the Santa Cruz Air Base in Rio de Janeiro or at the Anapolis Air Base in Goias, which is the home of the Mirage squadron (the possibility also exists that it will be installed at the Cumbica Air Base in Sao Paulo). In that simulator, pilots will receive advanced training in the various kinds of missions ("envelopes," as they are called in Air Force jargon) assigned to the FAB's supersonic and subsonic jets. Shortly before Rosa Filho spoke to reporters, Minister of Aeronautics Octavio Moreira Lima had said that the FAB might acquire the technology for manufacturing a rocket guidance system from China.

Rocket Guidance Technology

The new Air Force chief of staff, Brigadier General Cherubim Rosa Filho, said yesterday that "Brazil is going to acquire from China, France, Russia, and anywhere else possible" the technology for manufacturing a rocket guidance system—that being the chief difficulty

facing the Ministry of Aeronautics' Space Activities Institute (IAE) as it tries to complete its development of a satellite launch vehicle (VLS).

Rosa Filho reported that a delegation from the Soviet Union's Air Force Command would arrive in Brazil next month to familiarize itself with the FAB's air bases and training establishments and the industrial plant serving Brazil's military aviation. Minister of Aeronautics Octavio Moreira Lima is placing greater hope for technological cooperation in the talks now underway with the Chinese.

The day before yesterday, he received a mission from the Chinese Ministry of Aviation in his office. "We are still engaged in very preliminary talks, but I anticipate that we will strengthen the close cooperation we already have with the Chinese and that we will do so in all areas of space science: that of satellites and that of launch rockets, especially as regards rocket guidance systems."

Rosa Filho also said that Brazil wanted a foreign technology which would permit development in the field of liquid propellants, which are much more powerful and unstable than solid propellants.

Chile

Pinochet: Constitutional Reform 'A Dead Issue'
PY0605162589 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1030 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Antofagasta—President Pinochet has confirmed here that the possibility of a dialogue to reform the Constitution is closed. Pinochet added that the issue is already dead.

Pinochet, who arrived in the Second Region as part of a 6-day tour of the north, talked to reporters after a briefing on the region's economic and social development with the city's Quartermaster Corps. During a brief encounter with the press, Pinochet talked about several issues. He refused to comment on the National Bank situation because he has not received a report from the Banks Superintendancy on the reasons for the intervention. The president said:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What can you tell us about the intervention of the National Bank?

[Pinochet] I cannot tell you much because I have just finished another meeting. Let me get the details. I will comment on it later.

[Reporter] What about the constitutional reform and Patricio Aylwin's remarks?

[Pinochet] I have always been open to a dialogue on constitutional reform. On 11 March I said the Constitution had to be revised because there was room for improvements, but when I proposed to change it the opposition shouted its rejection.

[Reporter] Are there any possibilities of continuing the dialogue?

[Pinochet] No possibilities whatsoever. Listen, we have to be serious about something like this. We cannot play games and now say yes and now no. Do not ask me more about something that is already a dead issue. [end recording]

The president made this remarks after a meeting with the Intendant on the region's development. Today the president will go to Mejillones where he will meet with the people and talk to local authorities. The ministers of public works, national resources, and mines, and the under secretaries of health, regional and administrative development, and fishing are accompanying the president in his tour.

Merino Favors Dialogue on Constitutional Reform
PY1005012289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2300 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has not ruled out a resumption of the dialogue to reform the Constitution, but added that the opposition must now take the initiative. Merino made this statement after a meeting of the government junta at the Diego Portales Building:

[Begin recording] [Merino] If the first initiative was not accepted by the executive branch, they can always submit a second initiative. If the alternative proposal is acceptable, then we can begin a dialogue.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the government committed to taking the initiative?

[Merino] No, the government has already said its piece. There is nothing else it can say. The opposition knows the position of the government. They also know the government will not accept proposals such as the one submitted the first time around, so they have to find an acceptable proposal. It is as simple as that. [end recording]

Merino said nothing is utopian when men talk face to face and are responsible for their positions in something as serious as the future of the country.

Interior Minister Praises Constitutional Order
PY0605181889 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
1030 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Caceres has said that the opposition has tried to create the appropriate conditions for the gradual dismantling of the institutional order and

that the situation reflects the coalition's desire to do away with the present institutional system. Caceres added that neither the government or the nation will accept it.

Caceres made these remarks during a lecture at the Investigative Department. Caceres regretted the opposition's disposition to follow extremist ideologies from within the group. Caceres said that even though constitutional reform failed due to the unjustified rejection of the opposition, the present Constitution offers an adequate framework in which to fulfill individual and national objectives.

[Begin Caceres recording] A similar situation occurred during the Popular Unity government [Salvador Allende's government]. The Socialist government wanted to control all the power and this attempt impaired political activity and destroyed democracy. The majority of Chileans approved the 1980 Constitution which establishes a system incorporating mechanisms to avoid past mistakes and guarantees an institutional order that calls on our traditional values and creative forces to confront the challenges of the future. Our Constitution establishes a social order that is definitely free, a cultural system [words indistinct], a democratic political order, and a market economy that recognizes that the market can dispose of our resources more efficiently. It also establishes a flexible and encouraging mechanism to implement the social aspects of our economic policies.

I am sure that the institutional order that is bequeathed by the Armed Forces will become consolidated if political leaders and the nation cooperate with respectful political behavior, particularly regarding other people's rights, and clearly state their opposition to the totalitarian and violent systems that are threatening modern societies. [end recording]

Caceres said the present institutional order rejects violence and all kinds of totalitarian regimes because it recognizes that men are free and have rights that transcend state powers. Caceres concluded by saying that progress, freedom, and democracy will depend on the realism with which political leaders and Chileans assume their constitutional responsibilities.

Caceres Talks With Opposition 'Definitely Closed'
PY0505033989 Santiago Radio Cooperativa
Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 May 89

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Caceres has said that negotiations regarding constitutional amendments are definitely closed.

This was disclosed by Brigadier General Luis Patricio Serre, regional development and administration under secretary, after a meeting attended by all regional intendants and presided over by the chief of the cabinet, Carlos Caceres.

Serre explained that the interior minister had summoned the intendants from throughout the country to discuss the current political situation in view of the coalition of opposition parties' intransigence and refusal to accept the proposal for constitutional amendments.

Serre added that during the meeting the intendants asked whether there is any chance the government will agree to discuss these amendments again in the future, but the interior minister answered there is no such chance and the government's decision is definite.

Serre said the government's decision is based on the fact that the proposals were not accepted in the framework within which they were made. He added that the negotiations are closed, definitely closed.

The under secretary also disclosed that during the meeting the interior minister said that the coalition of opposition parties is managed by the leftist sector, and that within the leftist sector, it is undoubtedly managed by [Party for Democracy President] Ricardo Lagos and Clodomiro Almeyda [Chilean Socialist Party secretary general], noting that as a consequence, the leftist sector's candidate will undoubtedly be Patricio Aylwin.

Serre said in conclusion that the upcoming elections in Chile demand definitions in order to project a free society into future.

CUT Leaders Arrested, Released on Bail
PY0905031389 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2300 GMT 8 May 89

[Excerpt] Judge Juan Guzman Tapia has indicted the following CUT [Central Labor Union] leaders: Diego Olivares, acting president; Nicanor Ayala, secretary general; and Sergio Aguirre, director. They are charged with violating Article 11, Chapter 2, of the State Security Law.

The judge released them on bail, for which each CUT leader had to pay 5,000 pesos, deposited in the court's bank account.

The judge also granted early release for lack of evidence to CUT leaders Moises Labrana and Manuel Gimenez.

The five union leaders were charged by the government with violating two other articles of the State Security law after they had organized an illegal strike on 18 April during which serious acts of violence took place.

Nicanor Araya did not appear in court because he could not travel from his work place in Chuquicamata, but he is expected in court tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Bank Superintendency Intervenes National Bank
PY0905041089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2300 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] The situation of the National Bank is absolutely normal, and there is no evidence of insolvency, Claudio Scarmeta, the provisional administrator appointed by the bank and financial institutions superintendency, has said. He said the former administration was replaced for technical reasons, such as distrust of the bank's balance reports, the many times it was fined, and the rebellious attitude of the former administrators.

Scarmeta said his task is to investigate the financial situation of the bank, and he added that the situation of the National Bank depositors is the same as that of other banks, since the bank is working normally.

[Begin Scarmeta recording] The only thing I can say is that there were enough technical reasons to make the bank superintendency decide to intervene the National Bank and replace its administration. The situation is well known to the public. It is not the first time there has been a conflict between the National Bank and the superintendency. It was an accumulative process of the facts I have mentioned. The fact that Mr Errazuriz [former bank head and presidential candidate] is a well-known man does not prevent the superintendency from carrying out its mission. The superintendency is entrusted by law with protecting the people's interests and guaranteeing state money. [end recording]

Finally, Scarmeta said he could not tell whether there will be a court action against the former bank administration. This will only be known after the bank's financial situation is known.

Bank To Clarify Profits

PY0605182489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2300 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] The courts have ordered the bank of presidential hopeful Francisco Javier Errazuriz, the National Bank, to reduce its profits by 146,000,000 [currency not specified] or otherwise clarify the origin of these profits.

The 8th chamber of the Santiago Appellate Court has unanimously rejected a petition filed by the National Bank against a resolution by the Superintendancy of Banks and Financial Institutions, which ordered the bank to reduce its profits by the figure mentioned above.

The Appellate Court decision states that the Superintendancy acted within its powers.

Candidate Errazuriz Suffers Heart Attack
PY0605170089 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1030 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Businessman and presidential candidate Felipe Javier Errazuriz has suffered a heart attack and has been rushed to Santa Maria Hospital.

Errazuriz was recording a television program when he received notification that his bank, the National Bank, was being intervened by the state. Immediately after receiving the news Errazuriz felt a pain in his chest. According to Hector Lopez, the physician who treated him, the pain was caused by a fairly serious heart attack.

Jose Miguel Rodriguez, head of Errazuriz' presidential campaign, said that Errazuriz was fighting for his life, a life that has always been dedicated to solving the country's problems.

Dr Hector Lopez said the patient was in fair condition at the hospital's intensive care unit. The physician said he could not speculate about the political future of the candidate because he could not foretell Errazuriz' recovery.

Federico Errazuriz, Francisco Javier's brother, said the family is very much concerned about Francisco Javier's health.

Peaceful Demonstrators Arrested in Valparaiso
PY0605025389 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish
2300 GMT 5 May 89

[By correspondent Enrique Acevedo Valez]

[Text] Eighteen women and three men were arrested shortly after noon today, following a small demonstration in front of the Naval Prosecutor's Office of Valparaiso, near Sotomayor Plaza. The demonstration was started by relatives of political prisoners. It was intended to denounce the situation of Roberto Ataur Rodriguez, who has been kept in isolation in the Valparaiso public jail on orders of Naval Prosecutor Captain Miguel Angel Munoz. The president of the group, Monica Moreno, said this means Rodriguez has been kept incommunicado without legal grounds.

The demonstration was peaceful. A placard was held up that read: Roberto Ataur, a year in isolation and the naval prosecutor is to blame. Pictures of political prisoners were also exhibited. The demonstration in front of the Naval Prosecutor's Office was held on the sidewalk in order not to disturb traffic.

After the arrests, Marcia del Valle, secretary of the group of relatives of political prisoners of Valparaiso, read part of a statement released to the media:

[Begin Del Valle recording] The demonstration was peaceful; nevertheless, Carabineros arrived and dispersed the group violently, arresting 21 people—mothers, daughters, sisters, and other relatives of political prisoners. We inform the public that when we held up placards and sang to demand that the mistreatment of political prisoners be ended, we were confronted with violence. [end recording]

The women were arrested as they were walking on the sidewalk of Pratt Street, singing: I call you, freedom. The Valparaiso Human Rights Commission issued a statement saying: We deplore the fact that such peaceful demonstrations should give rise to situations of violence and tension that are unjustified, and we note that these demonstrations are a response to the total lack of credibility of military justice.

The 21 persons arrested by the Carabineros were set free this afternoon, but were ordered to appear in the local police court. This measure was taken following the involvement of lawyers from the Human Rights Commission of Valparaiso.

Political Prisoner Dies in Chillan Jail

PY0505234889 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 May 89

[By Cecilia Morales]

[Text] The Gendarmerie Regional Directorate has confirmed the death of political prisoner Pedro Manzano Mattus, 25, at the Chillan jail. Manzano was serving a 3-year, 1-day sentence for disrespecting the Weapons Control Law. Manzano was sentenced by the Chillan Military Court. He would have been released in October.

The first rumors of Manzano's death stated that when his mother went to the jail to visit him yesterday, as she does every Thursday, Manzano did not come out of his cell to meet her.

An official report stated that Manzano allegedly died at 1630 yesterday. The courts immediately ordered an administrative investigation at the Chillan jail.

The news about the political prisoner's death have created a great impact in Chillan. This morning, Vicariate of Solidarity lawyer (Aldo Venuchi) explained the result of the forensic expert's examination which sought to clarify Manzano's death:

[Begin (Venuchi) recording] Manzano died in the morning. An autopsy was performed at 0900 this morning. The coroner told me that foul-play can be ruled out. He died of Charcot's aneurysm in the base of the skull. This disease is congenital. This disease affects people aged 24, 25, between 20 and 30. [passage omitted]

(Venuchi) said that to this should be added the fact that procedures at the jail are not necessarily fast, which delayed medical care for Manzano.

Relations With Sao Tome, Principe Established *PY0605145789 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 6 May 89*

[Text] According to an official Foreign Ministry communique, the Governments of Chile and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the level of concurrent embassies. The measure will become effective today.

The countries relations will be based on the UN Charter. The communique says that the decision follows the two government's determination to strengthen the cooperation and friendly relations between the countries.

Polish Consulate To Be Opened in July *PY0605012289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 May 89*

[Text] The Chilean Foreign Minister has reported that the Polish Government will establish a general consulate in Santiago in July, and that Chile will do the same in Warsaw in the near future. This information is included in an official communique that was released by Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos Ducci.

Ducci said that this agreement is part of a process to expand and diversify Chilean diplomatic and trade relations. It was reported that the Chilean consulate in Warsaw will have jurisdiction throughout Poland.

World Bank Loans \$200-Million for Housing *PY0505162389 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 5 May 89*

[Summary] On the Chilean Government's behalf Housing and Urbanization Minister Gustavo Montero Saavedra has signed a World Bank document loaning Chile \$200 million for the housing sector. This project foresees the construction of 117,000 homes for 1989 to 1991 and at a final cost of \$1.1 billion.

Minister Montero also praised the support the World Bank has given to housing policies.

Colombia

ELN Attacks Oil Pipeline, Causes Losses *PA0505121289 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 May 89*

[Text] The so-called Army of National Liberation [ELN] has carried out another attack on the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in the Middle Magdalena Region. This is the 13th attack on the oil pipeline this year. The attack caused losses in the millions [currency not specified].

'Orange Alert' Decreed Due to Galeras Volcano
*PA1005020689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0111 GMT
10 May 89*

[Text] Pasto, Colombia, 9 May (AFP)—An increase in the activity of the Galeras Volcano, located adjacent to this city—the capital of Narino Department in southern Colombia—forced the local emergency committee to decree an orange alert tonight.

The committee stressed that this does not mean that people living in the vicinity of Galeras (which is 4,276 meters high) must leave their residences immediately but that they must remain on alert for instructions from the authorities in the event of an eruption.

A preliminary map prepared by the government-run Ingeominas [Geological-Mining Research Institute], indicating which areas are potentially threatened by the volcano's activity, has been released together with a communique.

The map indicates the areas of highest risk (0 to 5 km from the crater), moderate risk (8 to 15 km), and lowest risk (15 to 23 km). The localities facing the highest risk are Pasto, Yacuanquer, Cariaco, Tangua, Sandona, La Florida, and Narino, with a total population of 400,000.

Oil Deposit Discovered in Eastern Plains
*PA0705151189 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
27 Apr 89 pp 1-A, 8-A*

[Summary] A new oil deposit has been discovered in the eastern plains, on the border between Meta Department and Vichada Administration. The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, ECOPETROL, reported that the Rubiales II well test was positive. Unofficially, it was reported the deposit's reserves could be as high as 250 million barrels. The well was drilled jointly between ECOPETROL and the foreign company Tethys.

Colombia presently has oil reserves of 2.26 billion barrels, which will keep it self-sufficient beyond the year 2000.

Government's Employment, Unemployment Statistics
*PA0705193989 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
27 Apr 89 p 6-B*

[Summary] The National Administrative Department of Statistics [DANE] has reported that unemployment in Colombia increased from 10.2 to 10.9 percent from the end of December 1988 to 31 March 1989. The number of unemployed persons increased from 337,000 to 396,000. Meanwhile, the number of employed persons decreased from 3,309,000 to 3,237,000. However, unemployment at the end of the 1st quarter of 1989 was lower than at the end of the 1st quarter of 1988, which was 12.6 percent. Of Colombia's major cities, Bogota had the lowest unemployment rate, 9.8 percent, and Barranquilla the highest, 13.3 percent.

DANE also reported that in the rural areas, only 4.87 million persons have salaried jobs out of a work force of 5.133 million.

Increased Export Figures for 1st Quarter of Year
*PA0705235489 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish
25 Apr 89 pp 28, 29*

[Summary] The Colombian Foreign Trade Institute [INCOMEX] reported that during the 1st quarter of 1989 Colombia's nontraditional exports increased 28 percent to \$799.5 million, and coffee exports increased 24.3 percent to \$501.5 million, for a total of \$1.301 billion. These figures do not include oil exports, which have been affected by the attacks on the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline.

INCOMEX also reported that Colombia ran up a trade deficit with Venezuela of \$13 million in January and February 1989. Exports to Venezuela amounted to \$43 million, while imports from Venezuela amounted to \$56 million.

Colombia's imports from Venezuela consist mostly of raw aluminum, aluminum ingots, sheet iron and steel, gasoline, urea, lubricants, oil, and high-density polyethylene. Colombia exports beef, caprolactam, polyvinyl chloride, bituminous coal, books, leaflets, and other printed matter to Venezuela.

*** Report on Trafficker, Paramilitary Links**
*53002096z Bogota SEMANA in Spanish
11 Apr 89 pp 22-34*

[Special report: "The Paramilitary 'Dossier'"]

[Text] Last week, paramilitary groups were in the news. But not the way they were after the beginning of last year, when they unleashed a wave of massacres and political assassinations; now, for the first time, the news was that they had savored the bitter taste of defeat. On Tuesday the 4th, two government agents, one in Bogota and the other in the Magdalena Medio of Antioquia, caused the deaths of 10 members of paramilitary hit squads and the arrest of 13 others.

The first blow took place on the tranquil streets of a residential neighborhood in the southern part of Bogota, where the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) agents arrived in the early hours of the morning. After a fierce shoot-out that lasted over a half-hour, the DAS agents managed to defeat the members of the "Los Justicieros" [The Executioners]. According to the director of the DAS, General Miguel Maza Marquez, this ring took orders from Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, El Mexicano. Meanwhile, in the area of Monteloro in the municipality of San Luis, in southern Antioquia, a combined commando made up of National Police and drug agents clashed with a paramilitary band that, according to

Police Inspector General Octavio Vargas Silva, was involved in overseeing property owned by Pablo Escobar Gaviria in the Magdalena Medio area.

The first organization allegedly participated in the assassination of leftist leaders and prominent national politicians, including the young leader of the Patriotic Union, Jose Antequera, who was murdered a few weeks ago. The second group is reputed to be part of the fearsome paramilitary organization of the Magdalena Medio that performs the dual task of overseeing farms, laboratories, and landing strips belonging to the Medellin Cartel, and perpetrating assassinations and massacres of peasants, as well as other paramilitary operations.

The above provided evidence that something new was going on in Colombia. The country, accustomed to the weekly quota of blood and death, usually involving rural and urban civilians or talkative soldiers on roads where ambushes were set up, or even guerrillas from any of the armed groups, had begun to think that as long as paramilitary groups could move with impunity through vast stretches of national territory, the war that the Colombian state had to fight against all the enemies of democracy was being waged selectively, only against the subversion of the left. Many wondered, when in the heck was the government going to pit soldiers or police officers against the paramilitaries, the subversion of the right?

Secret Documents

The events of last week were an initial response to this question, and represented much more than a mere coincidence. In a way, they were the result of the investigative work that the authorities had begun to carry out months earlier, when a national clamor arose calling for action against the paramilitaries. The secret organizations, military authorities, and officials of the president's office and the cabinet who were in charge of matters of war and peace had begun to make progress in compiling and analyzing available intelligence, which enabled them to fill in almost all the pieces of the paramilitarism puzzle. "After reviewing the documentation," a high official who had access to the information told SEMANA, "I thought that the only thing that remained was to begin moving." And that was exactly what happened last week.

The government has abundant and detailed intelligence. Thanks to this information, the origins, development, and current structure of the paramilitaries are already known. It is known how they finance themselves, how they operate, how they communicate, and how they train their men. The link between these groups and the drug trafficking industry has been established. Furthermore, the precise identity of their top leaders is known. Among other things, it is known that Israeli and British specialists have been brought to the country secretly to train the elite commandos of these organizations. In short, much is known. SEMANA learned this after examining a packet of documents which have come into President

Virgilio Barco's hands from various government and security offices. These documents contain a great deal of information gathered from intelligence activities, the interception of documents and phone calls, and most importantly, valuable testimony by deserters from the paramilitary groups.

Perhaps the most important of these statements was given by a doctor who started out as a subversive in the ranks of M-19. After accepting amnesty, in approximately 1983 he was detained illegally in the area of Puerto Boyaca by troops of the Barbulita Battalion. After intensive interrogation, they supposedly turned him over to the people who were the genesis of what would soon become paramilitary groups. This informant, like others who have come into contact with the authorities, is now out of the country under a program designed to protect his identity and keep his whereabouts a secret. In addition, the government has gathered data obtained from drug police actions in parts of the Magdalena Medio and Meta, from the interrogation of members of hit squads who have been arrested recently, and even from anonymous phone calls and messages that have provided valuable clues for finding some key players in the paramilitary organization. By comparing this information, the government has been able to trace the history of these organizations. SEMANA now presents the main parts of this story to its readers, although of course it has omitted information such as the location of landing strips and drug laboratories and the organizational hierarchy of the paramilitary movement, which must be kept secret so as not to hinder the investigations.

Health for All

In mid-1983, the residents of Puerto Boyaca and its environs, who were then subjected to one of the most ferocious campaigns of blackmail, extortion, and kidnapping by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), began to witness a process that at first struck them as merely curious and attractive. Groups of civilians, sometimes armed, began to travel throughout the region bringing health brigades to numerous villages. This became an opportunity to make contact with the peasants, to learn their concerns, and to find out which ones were associated with the FARC and which, on the contrary, were sick and tired of the practices of the guerrilla organization. The brigades had originally been an idea of ACDEGAM, the association of Magdalena Medio ranchers, and its leadership was quite enthusiastic about the practice.

During that same period, bodies began showing up, sometimes mutilated or tortured; they were the bodies of people who had been suspected of having some connection with the guerrillas. Customarily, on or beside the body would be a sign with phrases such as "killed for being a communist." In late 1983, the health brigades had spread to several other areas of the country that were plagued with the same ills as the area of Puerto Boyaca, guerrilla warfare. Landowners, businessmen, and miners

from regions such as Uraba, Meta, northeastern Antioquia, and all of the Magdalena Medio, began to sponsor the health brigades, which preceded the so-called "cleanup operations" and the first massacres that took place in the country during that period, like the one in Remedios, Antioquia, in late 1983.

Although the pattern had already spread far, as evidenced by the daily murders in Puerto Berrio, Puerto Nare, Puerto Triunfo and even Barrancabermeja, Puerto Boyaca retained its lead as a trend-setter for the new practices that were being devised. In that municipality, the first armed self-defense organization emerged at that time. Its founders, according to the information gathered, were Pablo Guarin (assassinated in 1987 by the FARC), Carlos Loaiza, Luis Suarez, and Gonzalo Perez. They collected contributions from local landowners and recruited young peasants to attend the first self-defense school, called El Tecal and located on the La Paz farm near Puerto Boyaca.

The first contingents of this group conducted patrols throughout the area, sometimes accompanied by troops from the Barbula Battalion, headquartered in Puerto Boyaca. These patrols not only sought to kick the FARC out of the region, but also to intimidate their former collaborators and turn them into allies of self-defense. At that time, the organization operated with modest contributions from landowners, as their functions did not require large sums. The pay of the patrolmen did not exceed 7,000 pesos a month, and food was generally provided by the peasants themselves in the areas where the patrols took place.

But as the organization grew, there was more of a need for communications, arms, and equipment in general. The patrolmen asked for higher pay, and according to one statement made to the authorities, money began to run short. It was not easy to ask the landowners to increase their contributions, because there was a risk that they would think the dues they were paying to the self-defense groups would end up being more onerous than the extortion money demanded by the guerrillas.

Lottery

In early 1985, an episode occurred on the outskirts of Dos y Medio, a few kilometers away from Puerto Boyaca, which changed the history of the organization forever. A self-defense commando, which had set up a checkpoint on the road, intercepted a jeep loaded with cocaine. The jeep driver tried to run the blockade, and a shoot-out ensued. As a result, some of the occupants of the vehicle were wounded. According to one of the documents obtained by the government, the cargo belonged to Jairo Correa and Pacho Barbosa, the latter owner of the La Suiza farm in Puerto Nare, not very far from there.

The owners of the cargo contacted the self-defense chiefs in Puerto Boyaca and began negotiations that culminated in an agreement. There was a consensus that the drug traffickers and the self-defense advocates both opposed the guerrillas and the communists. The jeep and the drugs were returned, and in exchange, the owners contributed to the self-defense forces a Toyota with Venezuelan license plates. From then on, the patrols of the territory that included La Suiza were conducted with that Toyota.

This was the beginning of a romance that would end in matrimony: drug traffickers and self-defense advocates understood each other easily, and as the days went by, the leaders of the organization in Puerto Boyaca dealt on a first-name basis with individuals whom Colombian and American authorities accuse of being the kingpins of the Medellin Cartel: Pablo Escobar Gaviria, Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez, and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, better known as El Mexicano. All of them had investments in that and other regions to which the coverage of the self-defense organization had extended. Some of the local leaders, such as Pablo Guarin and Luis Rubio (who would later become the first elected mayor in Puerto Boyaca, until a judge issued an arrest warrant for him and he became a fugitive from justice) had met Escobar Gaviria during the 1982 election campaign, when he was elected to the House.

The new capital made people forget easily about the lean times. With more money, it was easy to build new self-defense schools, which then began to combine with the schools for hired assassins. According to the government documents, the two most important schools, called "Cero-Uno" [Zero One] and "El Cincuenta" [The Fifty], were located at kilometer 9 on the Puerto Boyaca-El Zambito Highway, and on the El Delirio-Ariza Highway, respectively, in the department of Santander.

It was also easy to extend to new regions the operation of what by then had become the paramilitary groups. From an initially defensive position as self-defense groups, they had definitely gone on the offensive. The Uraba-Cordoba-Bajo Cauca-Magdalena Medio-Meta axis was by that time practically covered by the tentacles of the paramilitary octopus, whose leadership set four main goals for themselves:

- Protect the community from blackmail, extortion, and kidnaping, as well as other guerrilla practices, and train patrolmen who, disguised as cowboys or laborers, were to guard the haciendas, particularly those belonging to drug traffickers.
- Train and educate the groups of bodyguards for the leaders of the Cartel and the paramilitary organizations.
- Train and educate personnel for the production of cocaine in the Cartel's laboratories. This opportunity, which in time became a way to make good money, was given to patrolmen who distinguished themselves in their work.

- Assault members and leaders of the Patriotic Union and other political and labor organizations, as well as representatives of the government or the political parties and other sectors of society that opposed drug trafficking. For this purpose, it was necessary to establish groups of professional hit men.

Professionals

In order to achieve these objectives, the rather primitive self-defense schools, El Tecal, Cero-Uno, and El Cincuenta, were replaced by two new training centers. Curious entrance examinations and new training programs were devised for these schools, in accordance with the narco-paramilitary needs of the organization (see box). These schools are:

- The Galaxias School in Pacho, Cundinamarca, which government documents say is led by Marcelino Panesso, alias Benitin, and financed by El Mexicano. "The best" are trained there, according to one of the informants who spoke to authorities. To enter this school, one must have at least a "bachillerato" [post-secondary] degree and, even better, have taken a few semesters of university-level courses.
- The Cero-81 School, near La Cienaga de Palagua in Puerto Boyaca. It is directly supervised by Henry Perez, son of Gonzalo Perez, state the documents obtained by the government.

The course for a patrolman lasts 30 to 60 days, and may include training in the following areas: camouflage, weapons and marksmanship, personal defense, preservation of identity, bodyguarding, intelligence and counter-intelligence, communications, and first aid.

At the conclusion of the training stage, the patrolman receives a full complement of equipment and supplies. The equipment consists of a hammock and mosquito net, a nylon or polyester rope, plastic and a tent, silverware, an FAL rifle, between 200 and 300 rounds of ammunition, 2 to 4 hand grenades, and a green or blue uniform. Food supplies include an envelope of soup or cream, a sugar loaf, a can of condensed milk, sausages, and a can of tuna or sardines.

The patrolman must rise at 0400 to 0500 hours to begin his activities by jogging for several minutes and performing calisthenics. Afterwards, the men sing the organization's anthems (see box), define the password of the day, and determine the reliefs, location of checkpoints, and the patrol routes. Every patrolman has a code and an alias, and carries false identification papers. In addition, he is subject to rigid disciplinary regulations that include the death penalty for anyone caught taking narcotics.

Englishmen and Israelis

By 1987, the paramilitary organization had already attained a level that its financiers considered optimum. Its leadership was definitely in the hands of the rulers of

the Medellin Cartel, who had become its principal financiers and who used it both for political and military tasks and for functions directly related to the drug trafficking business. As DAS Director Miguel Maza told SEMANA, "the paramilitary groups, as we know them today in Colombia, are the drug traffickers' particular interpretation of the self-defense movement."

Within this interpretation, El Mexicano showed a particular interest in optimizing the groups and making them more efficient, according to one of the documents. By that time he had begun to tell anyone who would listen that he had decided to declare war on communism throughout the national territory. This attitude emerged not only from an ideological issue and a social positioning, but also from the differences that had arisen in the jungles of Ariari, when lieutenants of Rodriguez Gacha had accused men of the FARC of stealing 10 million pesos in cash that was to be used for the purchase of coca leaf bundles produced in the region. Officials said in late 1987 that these differences lay behind the murder of the president of the Patriotic Union, former presidential candidate Jaime Pardo Leal, by men working for El Mexicano.

Many have interpreted the attack in which the Liberal leader of Puerto Boyaca, Pablo Guarin, was killed in late 1987 as the response to Pardo Leal's assassination. When this attack took place, El Mexicano had a long talk with Henry Perez, reveals one of the official reports, and the two agreed to hire foreign instructors to train bodyguards and patrolmen. The contacts made abroad by friends of the Medellin Cartel allowed them to invite five Israelis to the country. They arrived in Cartagena sometime around New Year's 1988, and remained in the country for 45 days to give a training course at the El Cincuenta School. The school had been closed, but was reopened for the occasion.

The course was named after Pablo Guarin Vera, and the five Israeli instructors were identified to their 50 students only with the aliases of Amancia, Zadaca, Dean, Teddy, and another name not recalled by the informant who supplied this information to the authorities. The 50 students were recruited as follows: 20 from the Magdalena Medio, chosen by Henry Perez; 20 from Pacho, chosen by El Mexicano; 5 from the Llanos, chosen by Victor Carranza; and 5 from Medellin, chosen by Pablo Escobar and Jorge Ochoa. The instructors told their students that once the course was over, they were moving on to farms in Costa Rica and Honduras to train groups of Nicaraguan Contras.

Weeks later, 11 British instructors were hired to give a new course. The English trainers identified themselves as "members of the British Legion," and distributed among the students copies of the magazine LEGION. Five of them were identified with the aliases Peter, Alex, Gordon, David, and George. The course began at the same

school, El Cincuenta, but a visit by the drug police to the area forced it to move to Putumayo by air, stopping off at a landing strip in the area of Yari.

Rodriguez Gacha's interest in these courses became evident once again when he personally attended the students' graduation, says one of the government's documents. From there the students would go on to become members of an elite of paramilitary commandos whose pay ranged from 1 million to 1.5 million pesos per month. The original idea was to use this highly trained group to lead a violent action against the FARC general staff camp in La Uribe, Meta. It is not known what discouraged them, whether tactical problems or information that the leaders of that guerrilla organization hardly ever stay there anymore. Nor is it known whether the idea of carrying out this attack is still alive.

Structure and Finances

The documents that the government is analyzing reveal quite clearly how the operational and command structures of the paramilitary organization work. There is no doubt that Puerto Boyaca, the cradle of these groups that was described by one official as "a kind of independent paramilitary republic," is still the epicenter from which the main bases and schools are controlled, and where policies and objectives are laid down.

In this municipality, the paramilitary organization is served by a clinic, a printing press, a drug store, a gunsmith shop, a computer, and—this is one of the pieces of information that has worried the government most—a communications center that operates with the cooperation of the Telecom offices in that town. The documents in the possession of the authorities reveal that the center of operations is a two-story building, the first floor of which is occupied by a drug store. The second floor contains the key to the operations, according to a paramilitary deserter who offered to cooperate with the authorities. There, in the place known as "Central," four radiotelephone operators work daily 12-hour shifts. The computer is also there, to compile and codify the organization's information and files. Officials believe that because of some desertions and the fact that the paramilitaries already know that this information is in the government's hands, this center of operations may have been moved.

Regardless, what is clearly established is that the entire organization is controlled from there, information is received, and orders are issued. A second satellite center is located in the town of Pacho in Cundinamarca, say the authorities. That is where El Mexicano maintains his center of operations. This center is under the command of Marcelino Panesso, a deserter from the FARC who now works for the paramilitaries. These two towns form an axis from which authority spreads toward the other regions in the Magdalena Medio, Meta, Antioquia, Cordoba, the Bajo Cauca, Caqueta, and Putumayo (see map) [not reproduced]. It is also known that the organization

owns houses in Monteria, Ibaguë, Cartagena, Medellin, and Bogota. It is curious that in the area of Uraba, where some of the bloodiest massacres have taken place, there is no "agency" or satellite, according to the information. It is believed that this explains why the perpetrators of the massacres early this year at the Honduras and La Negra farms came from the Magdalena Medio to perform what was reportedly a service rendered by the paramilitary organization for "clients" in the banana-growing region.

The organization also has 30 pilots in its service, and a fleet of planes and helicopters. It has 120 vehicles, primarily jeeps but also bulldozers and motor graders, not counting the launches and barges it uses for river transportation.

As for finances, the government's documents indicate that the organization charges a monthly fee of ranchers and landowners in the regions under its influence. The drug traffickers pay much higher dues, and some informants say that the paramilitaries are financing themselves almost exclusively from the contributions from the "capos." The monthly fees paid by nontrafficking landowners are almost a token, and are nowhere near enough to underwrite the huge expenses incurred by the organization. These expenses have increased not only because of the weaponry and the transportation and communications infrastructure, but also because of the salaries received by the organization's various employees (see box).

The payments are made through checking accounts, opened in some cases under fictitious names. Checks are signed by Emilio Valderrama, Carlos Lesmes, Luz Marina Ruiz de Perez, and others. The main accounts, according to one of the attachments of a government document, are with the Popular Bank and the Agrarian Fund of Puerto Boyaca, and at an office of the BIC [Banco Industrial Colombiano] in Medellin.

The information on the connections between the organization and members of the armed forces and police is what the government guards most jealously. Nevertheless, SEMANA was able to establish that, aside from accusations made against Major Echandia, today a fugitive from justice, there is information on the facilities Henry Perez uses to process safe conduct passes and to purchase weapons from Indumil through the Barbula Battalion.

The authorities' documents also mention connections established between the paramilitary groups and senior and junior officers who have served in Monteria, Puerto Boyaca, Puerto Berrio, Puerto Salgar, and San Vicente del Caguan. According to a witness whose statement was taken by the authorities, at Christmas 1987 some members of the army and police who were assigned to the area of Puerto Boyaca came to Henry Perez' house "to receive their year-end bonus."

It Is Possible

The information on the paramilitary situation compiled by the authorities is simply overwhelming. The very fact that they were able to collect these data and the events of the past week prove that the paramilitary organization is not invulnerable. It was necessary to decipher the enigma of its structure, its connections, its financing, and its *modus operandi*. But it was also imperative that the authorities take action and thus destroy the myth that the paramilitaries were untouchable.

But any action against these groups will be insufficient if the causes that led to them are not analyzed first, and if strategies are not designed to remove those causes. The paramilitary organization has become strong wherever the guerrilla groups previously ruled with an iron hand, and they in turn became strong years earlier because of the almost total absence of the state.

One of the most interesting aspects of the analysis that must be done has to do with the reasons that may have led the most powerful drug traffickers in the country to finance and assume almost total control of these groups. One of the motives was undoubtedly the fact that the "capos" began to acquire vast tracts of land in paces where the guerrilla presence was strong. And these purchases were no accident; they were the only people with the courage to buy in these violent regions because they thought they could take on the guerrilla threat. That was why they decided first to sponsor and then to take control of the paramilitary organization. But this was not their only motive. Some government analysts believe that in their struggle against the guerrillas, they also sought to acquire a certain social legitimacy among some sectors of the country that thought the government was not capable of coping with the threat of leftist subversion. "In fact," a high official told SEMANA, "one can conclude that these men have ceased to be mere common criminals, as they were when they were involved exclusively in drug trafficking, and may be acquiring a certain political status, having become sponsors of rightist subversion."

It is clearly possible that the drug traffickers are looking for positions to take vis-a-vis the country that will enable them in the future to become valid interlocutors with the government. But can anyone contemplate engaging in dialogue someday with the leaders of these groups? Perhaps, for the time being, the time is not ripe for this discussion to open. Nonetheless, it is worth asking why, if the government is talking with some guerrilla groups that are known to be deeply involved in drug trafficking activities, it could not, under certain circumstances, engage in talks with these other groups. In other words, what some are asking is, if there is dialogue with the narco-guerrillas, why not with the narco-paramilitaries?

Obviously, the blows dealt last week are just a first step, and it remains to be seen whether the authorities will continue traveling the route they took so long to choose.

Regardless of whether any type of negotiation is undertaken in the future with sectors that may be sponsoring paramilitary actions, the fact is that striking militarily at these groups—as has happened with some guerrilla organizations—reinforces the position of the government, the institutions, and Colombian democracy. But while we are waiting for all of these concerns to be addressed, the fact remains that the operations of the last few days are helping us see a light at the end of the dark tunnel of paramilitary violence.

[Box, p 26] Entrance Examination

No one can enter a paramilitary school without a letter of recommendation from a landowner with ties to the paramilitary organization. The candidate must first answer the following questions:

- Have you been harmed by the guerrillas?
- What is your ideology?
- Where did you work and how much did you earn?
- Who are your family members and where do they live?
- What would you do if you were captured by the authorities?
- Are you capable of killing Dad, Mom, or Brother if you discover that they are guerrillas?

[Box, p 27] Pay

This is the wage scale that covers the different levels of paramilitary troops:

-
- Patrolmen: 30,000 to 50,000 pesos per month
- Patrol commanders: 200,000 to 300,000 pesos
- Elite commandos: 1 million to 1.5 million pesos per month
- Farm managers: 100,000 to 150,000 pesos per month
- "Cooks" and professional laboratory chemists: up to 2 million pesos per month

Hired assassins and the pilots who transport drugs are paid according to the specific job they are asked to do.

[Box p 31] Paramilitary Map

1. Pacho (Cundinamarca). Galaxias School, headed by Marcelino Panesso, alias Benitin. El Mexicano's center of operations.
2. Puerto Boyaca (Boyaca). Cero-81 School, headed by Henry Perez. Logistical and administrative epicenter of the organization. Control of all operations in the Magdalena Medio and some at the national level. Ties with members of the Barbula Battalion. Functions as communications center and printing press.
3. Puerto Berrio (Antioquia). Thirty armed men under the command of Alfredo Vaquero, alias Vladimir, responsible for the La Rochela massacre.

4. Doradal, La Danta, Las Mercedes, Puerto Triunfo (Antioquia). Thirty armed men under the command of Pedro Aristizabal, alias Pedrito, and Ramon Isaza, alias Lenin, brains behind the murders at Uraba.

5. Yacopi, Patevaca and Teheran Corregiments (Cundinamarca). Between 20 and 30 armed men.

6. Puerto Boyaca, El Marfil and Puerto Pinzon (Boyaca). Between 20 and 30 armed men.

7. Magdalena Medio in Santander. Cimitarra (La Corcovada, Vuelta Acuna, San Fernando) and San Vicente de Chucuri (Las Montoyas). Exact number of armed men operating in this area not known.

8. Vista Hermosa, Puerto Lopez, Acacias and Caviona (Meta). Thirty armed men under the command of Juan de Dios Toro, alias Martin.

9. La Azulita (Putumayo). A contingent under the command of a retired Army sergeant who uses the alias Uldarico and a NN whose alias is William.

10. Puerto Asis (Putumayo). A contingent whose commander's alias is Rendija.

11. San Vicente del Caguan and El Recreo (Caqueta). A contingent under the command of Humberto Garcia. Ties to the local military base.

12. Monteria-Puerto Escondido Axis (Cordoba). Fifty armed men under the command of Eduardo Ramirez, alias El Sarco, and a retired major whose alias is Gabino. Ties to a military intelligence officer known as "El Viajero" [the traveler].

13. Caucasia (Antioquia). Thirty armed men, led by a man with the alias Walter, hiding on land owned by Cesar Cure and Fidel Castano.

Ecuador

Borja Criticizes Strikers' Economic Demands
PA0805122189 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish
1230 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] President Rodrigo Borja Cevallos justified the bill proposing a minimum salary of 27,000 sucres—\$54 per month—and said the national strike announced by the Sole Workers Front [FUT] leaders for this month will not be supported by Ecuadorian workers, much less by the people. Borja Cevallos said the proposed salary is not discriminatory.

[Begin Borja recording] Quite the contrary, their demands are discriminatory. It is discriminatory to establish different salaries for public employees—state employees and officials—and private workers. That is discriminatory.

We decreed a different salary increase to end such discrimination, so all public and private employees that do similar work may earn the same salary. We are reducing differences because the state employees earn much more than private employees. [end recording]

Referring to the wave of lockouts and the announcements of strikes throughout the country, President Borja stated:

[Begin Borja recording] I think it is unfair to ask a government to solve all the country's problems in 8 months—much less in a crisis situation and much less after finding Ecuador in absolute bankruptcy, up to its ears in debts, and without a real opportunity of fulfilling unlimited needs. I request a better awareness and do not think the strikes are supported by the people. I do not think the people decreed the strikes. A few weeks ago, I toured Azogues, inaugurating the railroad service between Azogues and Cuenca. I was received with the usual warmth by the city of Azogues, Vidian, and Canar. When I walk the streets in those cities, I receive the people's affection. [end recording]

Paraguay

Rodriguez Inauguration Planned for 15 May
PY0905174889 Asuncion RPC Television Network
in Spanish 1545 GMT 9 May 89

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana today announced that the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay have confirmed that they will attend President Rodriguez' inauguration on 15 May. Argana gave details of the ceremonies and commented on the possible attendance of other South American presidents.

[Begin recording] [Argana] As you know, three presidents have already confirmed their attendance: Brazilian President Jose Sarney, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, and Argentine President Raul Alfonsin. IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] President Enrique Iglesias is also coming. We are expecting the reply of other presidents who have expressed their desire to attend. We will of course be pleased and honored to receive them.

[Reporter] Are you talking about the presidents of Venezuela, Bolivia and Peru?

[Argana] Yes. We are talking about them.

[Reporter] What about Felipe Gonzalez of Spain?

[Argana] No. We were informed that he is not coming.

[Reporter] What about the U.S. Government?

[Argana] It looks like the U.S. Government will be represented by President Bush's eldest son at the head of a high-level delegation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Argana also announced this morning that all ministers of President Rodriguez' cabinet have been confirmed in their posts.

[Begin recording] [Argana] President Rodriguez has confirmed all cabinet ministers in their posts. He reaffirmed his confidence in us, and said that he hopes to continue to work with us. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Assassination' of Spanish Antidrug Supporter
PY0505230489 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
5 May 89 pp 52, 53

[Excerpts] A great commotion has occurred in the city of Pedro Juan Caballero following the assassination of the Spanish multimillionaire Domingo Martin Martin, who recently cooperated with the U.S.-Paraguayan team in the eradication of marijuana plantations, which abound in that area of the country.

Despite the efforts of ULTIMA HORA to learn the motives for the crime and its possible perpetrators, Brazilian and Paraguayan officials are keeping quiet on this episode that shook the region of Pedro Juan Caballero. [passage omitted]

Domingo Martin Martin may have been shot by drug traffickers because he cooperated with an anti-drug trafficking team by allowing his property to be used as a base for operations for the U.S.-Paraguayan Commission charged with spraying the extensive marijuana plantations in that region.

However, it has also been learned that Mr Martin Martin was involved in bringing soybean from Brazil.

Embezzlement Charged to Cement Industry Officials
PY0805230189 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
7 May 89 p 16

[Excerpt] Criminal Judge Eladio Duarte Carballo has ordered the detention of National Cement Industry (INC) President Ramon Centurion Nunez and INC General Manager Secundino Ovelar on charges of swindling, embezzlement, and conspiracy to commit a crime filed by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on 4 May.

The court also opened an inquest to determine the involvement of former President Alfredo Stroessner, former Industry and Commerce Minister Delfin Ugarte Centurion, the French middleman, commission-taker Jacques Soustelle, their accomplices, and those involved in the cover-up.

The inquest will try to determine who is responsible for an illegal payment of \$22 million to a Swiss account, and if the money was split among the group of Paraguayan and foreign officials mentioned above.

According to the Industry and Commerce Ministry, the \$22 million is just part of a total of \$40 million that was embezzled. The rest of the money was not included in the indictment because it involves deals with foreign exchange, something that cannot be proven in Switzerland,

the country where the nonexistent firm, Latin American Building Co., S.A., (LABCO) is registered, in the name of which the money was deposited. [passage omitted]

Unidentified Interference of Radio Nanduti
PY0905153489 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
9 May 89 p 10

[Excerpt] For the past 10 days Radio Nanduti has again been the target of interference like in the "famous" past. Mrs Gloria Rubin, wife of the radio station director, has said: "We cannot air reports from our mobile units, not just because of the interference, but because of the obscenities being used. This makes our work very difficult because reports must be made over the phone."

Asked about the plans of Radio Nanduti, Gloria Rubin said: "This morning (yesterday) we filed a complaint. At first, we just mentioned it on the air. Then my son phoned the monitoring section of ANTELCO [National Telecommunications Administration], and he was told that the sources of the interference would be investigated. So far, it seems as if nothing has been done."

"The problem is getting worse and it is making our work more difficult. When our mobile units send in reports the interference begins and we have to cut off so that the obscenities are not broadcast. The interference is more frequent during the morning hours, and again at night after 2100."

"Some days past without interference, but today (yesterday) for instance, we were bothered all day. The person interfering sounds like an oriental speaking Spanish."

Referring to ANTELCO, Gloria Rubin said: "There is administrative negligence on ANTELCO's part because we have filed a complaint. The equipment used to interfere with Radio Nanduti has not been located, yet ANTELCO has the capability to establish communications anywhere in the world instantly." [passage omitted]

CAMBIO AUTENTICO Out of Circulation
PY0805190889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
6 May 89 p 8

[Text] Unexpectedly, the weekly CAMBIO AUTENTICO, the official mouthpiece of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), did not appear yesterday. Apparently this weekly newspaper is suffering financial problems that prevented it from being published. The PLRA board will decide within the next few days whether the weekly publication of this newspaper will continue or not.

Only five editions of this weekly were published, and according to PLRA sources who were consulted yesterday by this newspaper, the financial problems stem from the bad distribution. The money earned from the distribution of this newspaper is not sufficient to cover the publication

costs. The same source said that regardless of the repeated warnings by the newspaper staff members, the PLRA board has handled the matter very irresponsibly.

A major part of the responsibility is also attributed to PLRA Press Secretary Luis Wagner. Those responsible for the publication of the newspaper hope to meet this week with PLRA President Domingo Laino to decide whether publication of the newspaper should continue or not.

Army Chief Comments on Arms Smuggling Operations
PY0905172289 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
9 May 89 p 11

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Eumelio Bernal Gimenez, yesterday charged the "Golden Quartet" [Augusto Montanaro, Adan Godoy Jimenez, Eugenio Jacquet, and Mario Abdo Benitez] with illegally introducing arms into the country during the time of the Stroessner government. The investigations continue, said the high-ranking officer.

General Bernal Gimenez was in the Government Palace yesterday morning. Asked about an alleged sale of arms to Paraguay in the United States, he replied: "You know about it. There is no need to repeat it."

He then added: "Anything that does not conform with established rules constitutes a problem. We are investigating inside the country. What has been brought in is also being investigated."

Gen Bernal Gimenez recalled that Colonel Tomas Anibal Aquino Arguello, former commander of the military garrison of Paraguari, has been arrested over an alleged sale of arms involving his son Jorge Aquino, who held the post of second secretary at the Embassy of Paraguay in Washington.

Asked if Col Tomas Anibal Aquino Arguello remains in custody, Gen Bernal Gimenez said: "I cannot tell you because he still has problems with some discipline regulations."

Asked his opinion on the illegal introduction of arms into our country, the Army chief of staff said: "During the previous government it was a normal and common occurrence to clandestinely bring arms into the country. This poses a great danger to us. This is something we have to clarify. We are searching for those arms. It was normal for those who were in power during the previous government."

Asked if he was referring to the "Golden Quartet," Gen Bernal Gimenez said, "That's right."

Finally, the Army chief of staff said: "We must seek a solution to this problem. At least we must see if we can find those arms."

Defense Ministry Sources Comment
PY0905182489 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
9 May 89 p 37

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Defense Ministry sources have reported that "Colonel Anibal Aquino Arguello, who is reportedly linked to arms smuggling, has not yet been indicted because the case records have not yet been submitted to the Military Court."

The arrest of some U.S. and Paraguayan citizens by U.S. policemen during a fight led to the discovery of alleged trafficking of U.S.-made large caliber weapons into Paraguay via the Paraguayan Embassy in the United States. The police found war materiel, pistols, and grenade launchers in their possession.

Police Chief General Francisco Sanchez has confirmed the arrest of Col Aquino, who is allegedly involved in the purchase of weapons in the United States. Sanchez said: "Aquino was placed at the disposal of the Armed Forces."

The Police Chief also said: "Col Aquino is being held at the Presidential Guard (former Presidential Escort Regiment) where he will be questioned about the affair. His son Jorge is being held at the Investigation Department."

Defense Ministry sources denied unofficial reports that this arms smuggling is linked to the Ukrainian and Iranian groups. The source added: "Maybe the report is a fabrication intended to draw attention."

Concerning the Ukrainian and Iranian connection, Sanchez pointed out that "such a link does not exist."

"A more strict control of some foreigners who have illegally entered the country is being carried out. That is all. I know nothing about foreign groups that are carrying weapons," Sanchez stressed.

PLRA Threatens To Withdraw From Congress
PY0905185689 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
9 May 89 p 9

[Excerpt] After heated discussions, the leadership of the PLRA has decided not to appear in Congress "if the government does not grant the 32 seats that were legitimately won according to the vote return and Article No 8 of the Electoral Law."

This was confirmed to the media by PLRA President Domingo Laino at the end of a heated debate that lasted several hours.

During an impromptu news conference, which started after midnight, Laino disclosed that "the PLRA has decided by a majority not to participate in the National Congress if the current Electoral Law is not respected, especially Article No 8 and its clauses A and B which

refer to the distribution of seats according to the electoral quotient and the rules that must be used so that each party obtains its corresponding number of seats."

Regarding the vote-count reports issued by the Central Electoral Board (JEC) containing the results of the final vote count, Laino said that "we still do not have a definite figure because the JEC continues to disclose results," thus trying to explain the initial confusion when the PLRA officially announced that it would fight for 22 seats in the Chamber of Deputies instead of 21 as it later announced.

The former presidential hopeful, and PLRA president, said that "we have already decided that we will fight for it and will see what decision the congressional commission in charge of analyzing the JEC documents reaches today. It is definite; we will withdraw, or not appear in Congress, if what is established by the Electoral Law is not fulfilled." [passage omitted]

Police Receive 50 Percent Salary Increase

PY0905142689 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
8 May 89 p 13

[Excerpts] The interior minister, General Orlando Machuca Vargas, this morning announced that the government has decided to increase by 20 percent the salaries of the police personnel throughout the country, thus, making the overall increase 50 percent. This increase will be retroactive to 1 May. The minister stated, however, that those policemen who staged a strike in demand of better salaries will be punished, because "they were manipulated by dishonest politicians."

"This increase has not been provided for in the General National Budget, but given the good disposition of the president of the Republic, the government has agreed to grant an overall increase of 50 percent that will be effective as of 1 May. Thus a 20-percent increase is added to the 30 percent that was already decreed," the minister added.

Regarding measures that could be adopted against those who staged a demonstration to express their demands, he said that "there are laws and rules, and that measures will be adopted in accordance to these laws and rules. If the law says so, then they will have to be punished."

"They violated the principle of discipline. As with any discipline, and according to the rules, I understand that they will be punished. I do not say that they will be discharged, but this will be decided by following the rules. But I want to take this opportunity to say that this (referring to the police strike and demonstration) was not the initiative of that group of 30 or 40 policemen. By no means. I can assure you that they were manipulated by dishonest people," Gen Machuca Vargas added. [passage omitted]

The interior minister stated that "they were handled by a small group of dishonest politicians. We already provided this increase long before these manipulated policemen decided to strike, which for me is totally negative."

The minister added that not only the policemen will be punished but also the civilians who participated in the strike. "The civilians will also be punished. They have all been well identified, and you will soon learn by the press who those people are. I am not an expert in legal matters, but we have the laws that will establish the measures."

He denied that the fearsome Law 209, on the Defense of Public Order and Individual Freedom, could be imposed on the civilians. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Promotions, Retirements Disclosed PY0505211489 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 5 May 89 p 13

[Text] The Executive Branch has submitted to the Senate a request for the promotion of officers of the Armed Forces who have fulfilled the legal requirements. The following brigadier generals will be promoted to division generals: Otello Carpinelli, Abraham Abed, Eumelio Bernal, Ramon Humberto Garcete, Juan de Dios Garbett, Juan Manuel Campos Guillen, and Francisco Sanchez Gonzalez.

The following colonels will be promoted to brigadier generals: Eduardo Allende, Solano Ignacio Gamarra, Carlos Egisto Maggi, Luis Valiente Flor, Dario Gonzalez Duarte, Ricardo Antonio Rojas Ortiz, Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena, Luis Alberto Laguardia Roa, Jose Miguel Gimenez Caceres, Silvio Rafael Noguera, Marcial David Samaniego Ocariz, Pablo Feschenko, Galo Longino Escobar, Ruben Adolfo Suarez, Mario Rodolfo Escobar Anzoategui, Crispiniano Lopez Gimenez, Oscar Rodrigo Diaz Delmas, Lorenzo Carrillo Melo, Hugo Adolfo Escobar Anzoategui, Pedro Concepcion de la Cruz Ocampos, Francisco Aristides Talavera Mosqueda, Dionisio Cabello Amarilla, Rodolfo Davalos Chenu, Francisco Luis Rodriguez Gonzalez, Marino Gonzalez Caceres, Regis Anibal Romero Espinola, Eduardo Ramon Sosa, and Lino Cesar Oviedo. Navy Captains Flavio Abadie and Andres Legal will be promoted to rear admirals.

As reported by ULTIMA HORA, this decision was made yesterday during the Armed Forces Promotion Board meeting which was presided over by General Andres Rodriguez. Military sources also confirmed to this newspaper that 34 generals have been retired. The official list includes the following division generals: Francisco Alcibades Brites Borges, Alejandro Fretes Davalos, Gaspar German Martinez, Gerardo Alberto Johannsen, Gustavo Prieto Busto, Cesar Machuca Vargas, Eduardo Sanchez, Guillermo Federico Clebsch, Luis Alberto Gonzalez Ravetti, Enrique Duarte Adler, Raul Eleuterio Calvet Torres, and Vice Admiral Cesar Cortese.

The following brigadier generals have also been retired: Roberto Knopfmacher, Luis Rolando Tomassone, Alejandro Schreiber, Bernardino Peralta Baez, Rafael Benito Jesus Guanes Serrano, Luis Esteban Olmedo Ortiz, Victor Manuel Florentin, Juan Vicente Rabito Jara, Jose Roa Benitez, Rogelio Bartolome Argana, Miguel Angel Berino, Francisco Ruiz Diaz, Isidro Gauto Caballero, Eladio Iriarte Dominguez, Trifon Gregorio Lopez Prado, Ismael Otazu Insaurralde, Alfredo Diosnel Zelaya, Alcibiades Ramon Soto Valleu. Rear Admiral Ignacio Catalino Moreno Carreras has also been retired.

The following generals have also been retired: Luis Joaquin Molas of the Army Quartermasters Corps; Hugo Dejesus Araujo of the Medical Corps; and Elvio Alonso Martino of the Army Quartermasters Corps.

New Agrarian Reform Institute President Named
PY0905211689 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
9 May 89 p 13

[Summary] President Andres Rodriguez today signed a decree by which Eng Esteban Medina Santacruz is appointed president of the Agrarian Reform Institute. Medina replaces Juan Manuel Frutos, who resigned from the Institute's presidency to join Congress as a senator.

Peru

Government Opposes Panama Electoral Fraud
PY0905151289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0437 GMT
9 May 89

[Text] Lima, 8 May (EFE)—The Government of Peru today expressed its opposition to "any manipulation" of the election results in Panama, and to any "foreign pressure or intervention" in Latin America to prevent the return of the canal to Panama.

The Presidential Press Secretariat issued a communique stating that Peruvian President Alan Garcia, in a meeting of the presidents of the Amazon Pact countries held in Manaus (Brazil), expressed the Latin American concern over the electoral process in Panama "without freedom of expression and with restrictions on the foreign press."

The communique adds that the official results of last Sunday's Panamanian vote are not yet known, that the electoral court has suspended the vote count, and that demonstrations by opposition forces have been dispersed "with violence."

It adds that the Peruvian Government has asked the countries members of the Group of Eight to implement common actions "that will permit a political presence in Latin America that will defend the free will of the Panamanian people against any threat."

The Group of Eight comprises Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Panama has been temporarily suspended for more than a year due to domestic situation following the overthrow of President Eric Delvalle.

The communique adds that Peru considers the Latin American presence "essential" to prevent, under the pretext of defending democracy, the process of returning the canal to Panama. "According to the treaties, this process must take a decisive step this year."

The communique goes on to say that Peru also denounces, and will reject, "any manipulation" of the electoral results in Panama, and "will reject any foreign pressure or intervention in Latin America."

Soviet Fishing Ships Granted Navigation Permits
PY0505133189 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish
1040 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] The Peruvian Navy Coast Guard has granted navigation permits to three Soviet ships: a mother ship and two trawlers. The 12,383-ton mother ship "Notosvsky Haviv" transports hydrobiologic products and fuel to supply the trawlers.

New IU Movement Established; Supports Barrantes
PY0505181689 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish
2 May 89 p 3

[Text] Yesterday, the United Left [IU] was formally divided when supporters of the "Barrantista" [named after former Lima mayor Alfonso Barrantes] faction established a new movement. The new movement is named the Socialist United Left [Izquierda Unida Socialist]. The first decision of the new faction was to appoint Alfonso Barrantes Langan as the party presidential candidate for the 1990 general elections.

The Socialist Agreement faction gave the IU leaders, who were elected during the Huampani congress—the legality of which they always questioned—a political "death blow" during a convention that was held in Lima. During this convention the members of the Socialist Agreement faction harshly criticized the leftist parties that are at the other extreme of the political spectrum with which they decided to break all ideological ties.

The Socialist United left issued what it described as "militarists" and "vanguard" documents. These documents were signed by representatives of the PSR [Socialist Revolutionary Party]; the PCR [Communist Revolutionary Party] Socialist Convergence; the Mariateguista regional committees; and the Socialist Mariateguistas. In these documents the Socialist United Left implicitly alludes to the PUM [Unified Mariateguistas Party]; the UNIR [National Union of the Revolutionary Left]; the PCP [Peruvian Communist Party] Moscow Line; and the FOCEP [Student-Peasants-Workers Popular Front] all of which were charged with abandoning the IU principles.

According to the unanimous decision of those who attended the convention which was held at the Civic Center, the Socialist United Left must organize the IU in view of the upcoming elections. Moreover, other political factions, no matter their ideological differences, are invited to join the socialist United Left in this task.

However, it was clearly established that if these parties pose resistance to the decision to establish the new political group, the Socialist United Left will register in the electoral board as a single party and will run against the IU as a single party. The only difference between the two political groups is the word socialist, which will identify the "Barrantistas" faction.

Senator Enrique Bernales, Senator Edmundo Murugarra, and Deputy Manuel Dammert Egoaguirre delivered speeches during the 2d and last day of the Socialist Agreement meeting. After attacking those against Barrantes' candidacy, they expressed their support for Barrantes, whose candidacy for the 1990 elections received overwhelming support from conventioners.

APRA Deputy 'Murdered' in 'Terrorist Attack'

PY0705021989 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 7 May 89

[Excerpt] Deputy Pablo Li Ormeno, of the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] party, was murdered this afternoon in an attack carried out by three individuals who shot him in front of his own drugstore in the Villa El Salvador district.

The body of Deputy Pablo Li Ormeno is currently at the Maria Auxiliadora Hospital, in Villa Maria del Triunfo district. He was the victim of a terrorist attack a while ago in Villa El Salvador.

According to initial investigations, Pablo Li Ormeno was ambushed by two terrorists who were waiting for him inside a car in front of Li's drug store, called La Mercedes.

So far, two deputies have been murdered in a cowardly fashion by terrorists in less than 15 days. [passage omitted]

Peasants Beat 7 Shining Path Members to Death

PY0505161489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0341 GMT 5 May 89

[Text] Lima, 4 May (TELAM-DPA)—It was reported in Lima today that a group of approximately 160 peasants from 15 communities have beaten to death 7 Shining Path members in Ayacucho Department, southeast of Lima.

Press reports said the peasants attacked the terrorists because they were tired of having their cattle stolen by the Maoist subversives.

Alleged 'Pro-Maoists' Kill Two Policemen

PY0905152689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0452 GMT
9 May 89

[Text] Lima May 8 (EFE)—It was reported on television [not further identified] that two policemen died and four were seriously injured during an attack by alleged pro-Maoist Shining Path terrorists in a mining center in Pasco Department, some 315 km northeast of Lima.

About 50 guerrillas attacked the township of Chicrin, near Cerro de Pasco, the capital of Pasco Department, and according to the information received, the terrorists set fire to a police post.

Other journalistic sources have reported that Shining Path terrorists have called a 3-day "armed struggle" in the city of Huancayo, in the Peruvian central mountain range, from 10 to 12 May.

The source said that the call to strike was made through leaflets left on the streets and in the squares of Huancayo, which is the capital of the Junin Department, 300 km east of Lima.

In the leaflets the terrorists call on the people to observe a total strike in Huancayo. They also criticize the government's policy.

This is the second time that Shining Path terrorists have called for "an armed strike" in Huancayo. Those who go to work are being threatened with death by the terrorists.

The first armed strike in Huancayo took place in mid-December and lasted one week, although the Shining Path terrorists already called for an armed strike in Ayacucho last November.

Car Bomb Explodes Near Garrison in Miraflores

PY0605143489 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0429 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Lima, 5 May (EFE)—Police have reported that at least four persons were injured tonight when a car bomb exploded in the neighborhood of an Army garrison located in the Lima district of Miraflores.

The incident occurred on a street in the neighborhood of Santa Cruz, which is located close to the San Martin Garrison, and the explosion, according to witnesses and police, broke the windows of the houses within the area. Shrapnel injured three women and a man who were passing by.

A police official has reported that according to the first details of the investigation, the car was abandoned by two persons who fled after parking it.

Shots were heard after the explosion and, according to witnesses, they came from inside the garrison and were fired as warning shots.

Uruguay

PRC Group Arrives To Prepare President's Visit *PY0805025989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0343 GMT 7 May 89*

[Text] Montevideo, 6 May (EFE)—A delegation from the PRC arrived in Montevideo today to pave the way for PRC President Yang Shangkun's visit, which will take place from 12-15 June. Yang will visit Uruguay as part of a tour of various Latin American countries.

The PRC president is visiting the country in response to a visit Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti paid to the PRC last November.

Uruguay established diplomatic relations with the PRC on 3 February 1988 and has signed three agreements since then: one on economic and technical cooperation, the others dealing with commercial and cultural ties.

As part of these accords, the PRC Government has agreed to increase annual imports from Uruguay to the tune of \$60-\$80 million. The increase will peak at \$150 million annually in 5 years time.

The PRC delegation is headed by Shan Dagi, the PRC protocol director, and consists of six people.

This visit will mark the first time a PRC president has ever visited Uruguay. The Latin American tour will also include stops in Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina.

Tupamaros Deny Contacts With Argentine MTP *PY0505210389 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1508 GMT 5 May 89*

[Text] Montevideo, 5 May (AFP)—The National Liberation Movement (MLN-Tupamaros) has "categorically" denied that it has made contact with the Argentine All for the Fatherland Movement [MTP] group since the latter took over the La Tablada Regiment in January.

In the latest issue of the Buenos Aires weekly EL INFORMADOR PUBLICO, which some sectors believe has connections with the intelligence services, states that the MLN-Tupamaros and the All for the Fatherland Movement held what was described as a "meeting of militants" in the city of Santa Fe.

According to the Argentine weekly the meeting was called to discuss, among other issues, the evolution of Uruguayan politics following the approval of the 16 April referendum on the Amnesty Law for the military.

The weekly EL INFORMADO PUBLICO also states that Argentine leftist are speculating on the possibility of coordinating subversive activities in the southern cone region and with the promotion of riots and social disturbances similar to those in Caracas.

Julio Marenales, a high-ranking Tupamaros spokesman, who during the 1960's and 1970's [word indistinct] through urban guerrilla movements, has said the report "is completely false." He did admit, however, that the Tupamaros "had contact with the MTP before the attack on the La Tablada Regiment."

Marenales said these contacts at the time were "completely normal" because the MTP is a "legal organization." But he added that "since the La Tablada attack we have not had any more meetings with the MTP."

Marenales said: "This is not the time to be holding many meetings." He added that since the attack on the La Tablada Regiment the MTP leaders "have been persecuted and their public activities are almost nonexistent."

On 23 January a guerrilla group called the Popular Resistance Movement (FRP), many of those members were also MTP members, took over the La Tablada Regiment for 29 hours. There were 39 casualties as the result of the attack.

Bomb Damages Leftist Party Premises *PY0505144089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1406 GMT 5 May 89*

[Text] Montevideo, 5 May (TELAM-DPA)—Hugo Cores, leader of the Party for the Victory of the People [Partido por la Victoria del Pueblo] (PVP), a leftist group that is a member of the Uruguayan Broad Front coalition, has reported that a small device exploded last night at the headquarters of his party. The explosion damaged doors and windows.

The individual who placed the bomb was discovered by police, but he escaped capture.

In addition to this attack, security forces are also investigating attacks against the premises of the Communist Party, which is also a member of the Broad Front, and of the rightist sector of the Colorado Party, the governing party in Uruguay, which is headed by Jorge Pacheco, current Uruguayan ambassador to Paraguay.

Venezuela

Executive Branch Communique on Panama Elections *PA1005012689 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0005 GMT 10 May 89*

[Communique issued by the Executive Branch in Caracas; no date given—read by Pastor Hydra, director of the Central Information Office]

[Text] The national government states its deep concern regarding the news coming from the sister Republic of Panama, which indicates that following a suspension of the vote-counting process, the counting of votes was turned over directly to the Panama Defense Forces, and the Panama Electoral Tribunal is issuing information

taken from adulterated tally sheets. In light of this situation, Venezuela wishes to express to the international community its solidarity with the legitimate election results, which represent the will of the majority of the Panamanian people.

To strengthen coordination to jointly carry out a Latin American policy, the president of the Republic has remained in direct contact with his colleagues at the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination for Latin America, which includes Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

A consultation is currently under way to establish, by common agreement, the form of action that will be taken, which will be announced by the organization's secretariat pro tempore, the foreign minister of Uruguay. The heads of state of the member countries of this organization share the national government's concern and agree to study all the options available to guarantee respect for the Panamanian people's will.

Perez Condemns Guatemalan Coup Attempt

PA0905175689 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1602 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez has condemned today's abortive coup in Guatemala. He expressed his repudiation of the coup attempt and reiterated his support for President Vinicio Cerezo's government.

In that regard, President Perez instructed the Venezuelan ambassador to the OAS to announce that the government's official position is not to recognize any Guatemalan Government other than the one headed by Vinicio Cerezo. Perez is consulting with the Group of Eight presidents and other Latin American democratic presidents so they can all take an active role in defending democracy in the continent.

Guyana

Hoyte Opposes Establishing 'One-Party State'

FL0505131289 Bridgetown CANA in English
2302 GMT 4 May 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 4, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte has accused opposition leader Dr Cheddi Jagan of trying to set up a one-party state in Guyana "through the backdoor." He was commenting on opposition charges that his administration was wrongly attempting to solve Guyana's troubles by trying to divorce the economic problems from the political problems when what is needed in Guyana is a "political solution."

Dr Jagan, in particular, as leader of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) has been championing the call for a national patriotic front government comprising representatives from all local national, patriotic, democratic, and leftist organisations. The Patriotic Coalition for

Democracy (PCD), which groups the PPP, the Working People's Alliance (WPA), the Democratic Labour Movement (DLM), and the People's Democratic Movement (PDM), has also joined the call for a national patriotic front government.

"What Dr Jagan is saying is that what we want is a national front government. Now, Dr Jagan has from the beginning of his career pursued the idea of a one-party state and I would have nothing to do with that," Hoyte said. He added: "I think to set up a one-party state through the backdoor by talking about a national front government. I have said very clearly, long ago, that I will not be a party to the establishment of a one-party state in Guyana."

Vice President Chandisingh Acting President

FL0805143089 Bridgetown CANA in English
1938 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 6, CANA—Vice President in the Office of the President, Ranji Chandisingh, is currently performing the duties of president of the Cooperative Republic in the absence from the country of both Desmond Hoyte and Prime Minister Hamilton Green. Green, the No 2 man in the government, left Guyana Friday morning for Jamaica where he is representing the president at the 40th anniversary observances of the University of the West Indies (UWI) while Hoyte left Friday afternoon for Manaus, Brazil, where he will be attending today's summit of Amazonian countries. Shortly after Hoyte's departure from the Timehri International Airport Chandisingh, who leaves shortly to serve as Guyana's ambassador in Moscow, was sworn in to perform the duties of president. The swearing-in was done by Chancellor of the Judiciary Kenneth George in the presence of several government ministers and senior government functionaries in the VIP lounge at the airport.

Hoyte: Cut Shortages To Curb Parallel Economy

FL0805145089 Bridgetown CANA in English
1335 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 6, CANA—The Guyana Government will focus on ending shortages rather than law enforcement to get rid of the country's black market, President Desmond Hoyte reported.

He contended that the parallel market is a function of shortages and the only way of dealing effectively with this—whether it is the market for foreign currency or for contraband and other goods—is to ensure that there is an adequate supply to meet the demand.

"That is precisely what the (government's economic recovery) programme is geared to do," Hoyte told CANA.

Guyana has a thriving black market where items ranging from currency to foodstuff can be bought.

"I do not believe in acting in vain. The people in Wall Street are not the major dealers in foreign currency. They are the people in the junior league," Hoyte said. "Wall Street" is the popular name for "America Street," a busy street in Georgetown, so-called because of the brisk business usually done there by an army of small dealers in foreign currency. They offer rates much higher than the official rate.

Thursday, while the official exchange rate remained pegged at 33 Guyana dollars for 1 U.S. dollar, the rate in Wall Street hovered around 50 Guyana dollars to 1 U.S. dollar.

"Even if you were able to clear the streets of all of them (the small dealers), let's say we could lock up all of them and put them away some place, the foreign currency transaction is going to continue because the people who are dealing in millions of dollars aren't standing up in Wall Street," Hoyte explained.

"We were getting the balance of payments support to ensure that we have sufficient foreign exchange in the system to but the range of good required by the economy and to put in the Central Bank in a position where you have greater foreign exchange liquidity. That, together with the exchange rate, would have considered the parallel market," he said.

"...Rather than concentrate efforts on trying to enforce some law which you really don't have sufficient manpower to enforce, the thing to do is to concentrate on the corrective side—the economic side—get the economy going and get the foreign exchange going into the coffers of the central bank," Hoyte added. He said the government has a similar attitude towards the pavement vendors, many of whom are engaged in selling a wide range of contraband goods.

"There again, I think it would be dissipated efforts (to try and enforce regulations against vendors selling contraband goods) and, in any case, for a public relations point of view, I don't think the public will be with you on that issue...

"What we should be doing is not running after the little fellow there with some contraband—a tin of sardines, a tin of butter or something like that—but really getting the economy going so that through legitimate processes, the goods which people require are brought into the system," the Guyanese president added.

Meanwhile, commenting on citizens' complaints about the high prices they now have to pay for a wide range of basic commodities such as rice, Hoyte said "an interesting thing" about the complaints is that while the consumer is asking that the prices be reduced, the producers are saying the prices are not high enough.

He contended that several years ago when the country's economic situation was much better, the government subsidised a wide range of items and it was difficult then to find things that were not subsidised; but that was no longer possible even though sugar and kerosene are still subsidised.

"We are selling sugar at a price which is below the cost of production and we are subsidising kerosene but even with those subsidies, the price increases have been quite steep," Hoyte explained.

He added: "What I am saying is that this economy is not producing sufficient wealth to have these massive subsidies that people (the opposition) are talking about."

Unions Urge Caricom To Mediate Crisis Situation
FL0605164789 Bridgetown CANA in English
2152 GMT 5 May 89

[By Courtney Gibson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 5, CANA—The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG) on Friday wrote the heads of government of Caribbean Community (Caricom) member states, urging their "mediation" in what it termed "the grave situation of industrial crisis in Guyana."

"The workers in our two major industries, sugar and bauxite, are on strike and workers everywhere are demoralised," FITUG said in the letter signed by Treasurer Nanda K Gopaul and copied to Caricom Secretary General Roderick Rainford.

The federation added: "As it is now clear that the situation can only be resolved through mediation, and as the Caricom Treaty has established industrial relations as an area for community cooperation, we are seeking urgently your good offices to this end."

FITUG comprises seven trade unions which are backing strikes in the sugar and bauxite industry—a protest over the government's economic austerity measures.

It said it was encouraged to seek the mediation by the 13 Caricom heads because of a number of reasons, including the fact that nearly a third of Guyana's debt is owed within the community, with Trinidad and Tobago being by far the largest creditor and with other substantial sums being owed to the Caricom multilateral clearing facility—a trade payments clearing system that collapsed—and the Caribbean Development Bank. Guyana owes Trinidad and Tobago more than 400 million U.S. dollars.

"Moreover, the present situation already threatens the effective working of the major Caricom institution, namely the Secretariat," FITUG said.

FITUG continued: "We are confident of your assistance as we know that in the words of the treaty you are committed to the 'common determination to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of Caricom peoples for full employment and improved standards of work and living.

The trade unions said the crisis here "has come about because of the imposition in the context of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of budgeting measures which have severely affected the living standards of all Guyanese."

These measures, FITUG said, have involved a devaluation which reduced the minimum wage from the equivalent of 2.50 dollars U.S. to 87 U.S. cents and price increases of 300 per cent on all commodities, including essentials.

It contended that since real wages prior to the March 31 national budget have fallen by 55 per cent in real terms over the last two years, the measures have imposed "unbearable and unacceptable hardship, hunger and misery."

Human Rights Association Concerned Over Arrests
FL0605164889 Bridgetown CANA in English
1250 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 6, CANA—The Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA), has expressed "deep concern" about the arrest of about 25 sugar workers in the Berbice and West Demerara area early Friday morning.

The association said it was worried about "the wave of arrests of sugar workers." The authorities have linked the arrests to arson and violence in the sugar industry. Several sugar workers here are on strike and their union described the arrests as provocative.

The human rights body has also stated its concern about four opposition People's Progressive Party activists alleged to have been arrested on April 28 on the east coast of the Demerara by between three and five men claiming to be policemen. No information on the whereabouts of the four men was given until writs of habeas corpus were filed in the high court Thursday and the deputy director of public prosecutions, Ian Chang, said the men were under police custody and under investigation for treason.

Bhoj Pratap Singh, Karan Persaud Deokarran, Arjune Ramotar and Neville Wordsworth are all members of the PPP or its affiliated Guyana General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU). GAWU is one of the seven members of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG) which is leading protracted strikes in the bauxite and sugar sectors against the government's 1989 budget and its economic recovery programme,

which the unions say are against the workers of the country. The government countered that the unions are operating on a political agenda.

A release from GAWU said its workers who were arrested Friday morning were taken into custody after their homes were searched for arms and ammunition and their passports and other documents were seized by the police.

The Guyana Government says it is satisfied that the PPP through its "terrorists" is responsible for a recent spate of arson in the country but it is experiencing difficulty in providing appropriate evidence.

"I am saying definitely that all the arson, the attempts to burn down schools, the attempt to burn Guyana Stores LTD, the burning down of Guyana National Trading Corporation and the burning down of the sugar canes form a pattern and that the PPP through its terrorists is responsible for that," Hoyte told CANA in an interview. He added: "We know some of the people involved. But of course, there is a difference between knowing and being able to provide the kind of evidence that would be legally acceptable in a court of law." He continued: "But that does not mean that we don't know that it is the PPP. Who else has anything to gain from that campaign." He contended further that no other political party in Guyana has "the interest or the capability for the widespread arson" being witnessed in Guyana.

Hoyte was responding to accusations levelled against the government by the PPP which on Wednesday charged that the police had tortured one of its activists two weeks ago and that the government had ordered the arrest of another four of its activists "as part of a campaign of intimidation and finding scapegoats for the worsening economic crisis" in Guyana.

The spate of violent incidents, he said, was consistent with PPP leader Dr Cheddi Jagan's "own call for violence since February" and was consistent with what activists of the PPP have been saying at their street corner meetings.

The PPP, in turn, accused the government of "overplaying its hand" and of becoming "absolutely hysterical." The accusations were levelled by Central Committee member Mrs Janet Jagan, wife of Dr Jagan. "I think the government is overplaying its hand. It is getting absolutely hysterical and I believe the arrests are related to the fact that the president and the prime minister will be abroad. I think there is a connection between the two," Mrs Jagan told CANA.

She said that among the persons arrested were members of the PPP Central Committee, some PPP representatives on regional democratic councils and some members of the party's district committees.

Activists Charged With Treason
FL0805152489 Bridgetown CANA in English
2021 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 6, CANA—Four opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) activists detained by police a week ago are being investigated for treason, a court here was told Friday. The disclosure was made at the first hearing of habeas corpus applications on their behalf. The men, Bhoj Pratap Singh, Karran Persaud Deokarran, Arjune Ramotar, and Neville Wordsworth were reportedly arrested at their respective homes on April 28. When the habeas corpus hearings began before Justice S.Y. Mohammed, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions [DDPP] Ian Chang, representing Commissioner of Police Balram Raghubir, told the court that the men were in police custody under investigation for treason and asked for leave to file an affidavit in reply to the writs by Tuesday. Counsel for the four men, Attorney at Law Khemraj Ramjattan, opposed Chang's application, contending that the commissioner of police had been asked to show cause why the men should not be brought before the court and there was no need for an affidavit to do so. Ramjattan contended further that the reason given for the men being in police custody was insufficient for them to have been held for a week and for them to be held longer while the DDPP prepared his affidavit. He suggested that any affidavit should have been filed by midday Friday so that the matter could have been determined that afternoon. He contended that the men had been virtually kidnapped and held incommunicado for a week. The judge however gave the DDPP up until Monday to file his affidavit and fixed Tuesday May 16 for the continuation of the hearing. Meanwhile, according to reports from Freedom House, PPP headquarters here, at least one of the men, Arjune Ramotar of Enmore, was released by the police. The arrests took place against the backdrop of strikes in the sugar and bauxite industry against the government's 1989 austerity budget, delivered in March. The government has reported several instances of arson and violence, which it linked to the strikes. Meanwhile, President Desmond Hoyte has said what is taking place in Guyana at the moment is a straight political struggle in which the survival of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) is involved. He made the assertion while addressing members of the party's General Council this week.

Public Services President Suspended for 3 Months
FL0805133589 Bridgetown CANA in English
2354 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 6, CANA—The Executive Council of the Guyana Public Service Union [GPSU] has suspended George Daniels from the post of president for 3 months without pay, the state-owned CHRONICLE newspaper reported Saturday. The CHRONICLE said the decision to suspend Daniels, who is also president of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana, officially from May 2, was taken last Tuesday. The CHRONICLE said the council had also

considered that Daniel's going on unauthorised leave, "particularly at this time, as being inimical to the interests of the union and the welfare of union members."

Workers in the key bauxite and sugar sectors are on strike protesting a sharp rise in prices, in turn linked to a 70-percent devaluation of the Guyana dollar.

Daniel's suspension from the duty follows the council's dismissal of General Secretary Leslie Melville for refusing to withdraw certain statements he had made about President Desmond Hoyte. Like Melville, Daniels, who was last year fired from his substantive government job as a principal assistant secretary—a position he held while on secondment to the GPSU—has been very critical of the government.

The privately-owned STABROEK NEWS newspaper reported Saturday the Daniel left a hospital after undergoing laser surgery for an undisclosed medical problem last Wednesday and had sent a medical certificate to the GPSU.

The paper said Daniels was expected to return to Guyana by May 19.

Bishops Offer To Mediate in Labor Dispute
FL1005004589 Bridgetown CANA in English
2102 GMT 9 May 89

[By Courtney Gibson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 9, CANA—Anglican Bishop Randolph George and Roman Catholic Bishop Benedict Singh have written President Desmond Hoyte, offering their churches services as mediator in a dispute which has kept Guyana's bauxite and sugar workers off the job for more than a month.

According to a statement signed by vicar-general of the Roman Catholic Church here, Terrence Montrose, the two leaders of the largest Christian denominations made the offer in the interest of the nation "in the view of the deteriorating conditions" in the industrial dispute.

Sugar and bauxite workers here went on strike early April, protesting against the government's national budget, which launched an International Monetary Fund-backed economic austerity programme. The budget included a 20 per cent increase in earnings for state-paid workers and a 70 per cent devaluation of the dollar trade unionists said wiped out the gains. The strikes are backed by the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG), a seven-member grouping.

"The initiative addresses, both, the short-term resolution of the current dispute and also the long-term need for continued production after such a resolution," Fr Montrose said. He said the offer was made in a letter to Hoyte last Monday, and it is hoped that a speedy resolution of the issues will come about.

FITUG has been demanding talks with the government but the government has refused to meet with FITUG saying it is already holding talks with the Guyana Trade Union Congress (TUC) of which FITUG members are still affiliates and that to hold talks with both FITUG and the TUC on the same national issue—the budget—would be inappropriate.

Commenting today on the bishops initiative, FITUG executive member, Nanda Gopaul, told CANA that FITUG welcomes and supports the decision.

"It is yet another option open to the government to bring the dispute to an end. FITUG remains ready to have dialogue with the government as soon as they are prepared to do so," Gopaul said.

In the meantime, as the costly impasse continues in the sugar and bauxite industries, another initiative being actively pursued is based on a suggestion from FITUG Vice-President Gordon Todd, leader of the Clerical and Commercial Workers Union (CCWU), that a way out of the situation would be for a FITUG component to be incorporated within any delegation from the TUC in future talks with the government on the 1989 budget.

TUC General Secretary Joseph Pollydore told CANA that he has received a letter from FITUG secretary, Birchmore Philadelphia, advancing that position.

He said the matter was scheduled to be discussed today at a meeting of the Executive Council of the TUC and he was confident that the TUC would be in favour of any unified approach to the discussions with the government.

Meanwhile, the Executive Council of the Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU) is reported to have decided to withdraw from FITUG.

According to the state-owned CHRONICLE newspaper, the decision "was taken as a result of political posturing of that body (FITUG) which undermines the initial objectives set by that body."

"That apart, recent activities coupled with personal attacks have led the union to take positive action and to disassociate itself from any statements or activities initiated by FITUG," the CHRONICLE said.

However, executive member (treasurer) of FITUG, Nanda K Gopaul, told CANA that the decision "can't be taken seriously" because the original decision by the GPSU to become a member of the seven-member federation last October was based on a unanimous decision by the General Council of the GPSU which has not met recently.

Havana TV Reports End of Bauxite Workers Strike
FL1005013389 Havana Television Service in Spanish
0000 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Three Guyanese have been accused of conspiring to overthrow the Desmond Hoyte government. Those charges could bring them the death penalty or life imprisonment. The three men join over 100 people who have been charged since the beginning of the disturbances caused by the passing of a budget, the devaluation of the currency by 70 percent, and price increases by 230 percent.

The Georgetown authorities were relieved with the return to work of 2,000 bauxite miners who staged a strike for over a month at the Linden installations. The workers returned to their posts after an agreement was reached granting them 20 percent wage increases in addition to other benefits. However, the stoppage that began in April and maintains the sugar industry is on the verge of bankruptcy, continues. The strike of 20,000 sugar industry workers have caused losses amounting to some \$50 million.

Fire Damages Georgetown Magistrates Court
FL0805164489 Bridgetown CANA in English
1630 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 8, CANA—Guyana police were Monday investigating the cause of a fire which early Sunday damaged the Georgetown Magistrates Court Building—the third blaze at a court house in recent weeks. Sunday's fire gutted the southern section of the building which houses the court and radio reports said that important records were believed to have been damaged.

Guyana has been plagued by a spate of fires said by the government to be the work of arsonists linked to an ongoing opposition campaign against steep price rises caused by a 31 March 70 per cent currency devaluation tied to an IMF programme. The Vigilance Court, East Coast, Demerara, and the Cristianburg Court, at Linden, 65 miles south of Georgetown, were slightly damaged by recent fires.

Suriname

General Strike Paralyzes Paramaribo 5 May
LD0605121789 Hilversum International Service
in English 1130 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] In Suriname there's been a massive response to a strike call issued by four of the country's five major trade unions. Public transportation has been paralyzed and banks, schools, and shops have remained closed. Observers say the capital, Paramaribo, was as quiet as on a Sunday.

The work stoppage was designed to force the government to take energetic measures to deal with Suriname's economic and political problems. The trade unions also say that the Netherlands, by withholding its development aid to Suriname, is acting illegally and immorally.

Despite the strike, Suriname President Ramsweack Shankar says he still plans to go to Brazil to attend a conference on the environmental problems facing the Amazon region. The trade unions are angry about the president's decision. They say he should remain in Suriname because of the situation.

Human Rights Activist Detained, Exit Barred
PM0805125789 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD
in Dutch 28 Apr 89 p 3

[Unattributed dispatch: "Reverend Polanen Barred From Leaving Suriname"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 28 Apr—Human rights activist the Reverend R. Polanen was arrested by the military police at Zanderij Airport yesterday afternoon. In the course of the evening he was released, but he has been barred from leaving Suriname for the time being. The reverend was arrested because, according to Army officers, he is suspected of aiding and abetting Ronnie Brunswijk and of having knowledge of the the Jungle Commando attack last Sunday [23 April] on Pokigron. Polanen and his family were taken off the aircraft on which they had intended to fly to the Netherlands via the Netherlands Antilles and were brought to military police headquarters at Fort Zeelandia. In the evening, while 200 people held a vigil outside the military police headquarters to protest Polanen's arrest, he was taken from the building via a backdoor and returned home.

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